TCS appoints Deloitte, Trilegal for Nashik probe

CEO and MD K Krithivasan says they have not received any complaints

P14

DH on Saturday

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SC rejects Pawan Khera plea for time to approach Assam court

P11

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Gill guides GT past KKR

Rabada, Siraj expose Kolkata's batting flaws once again

P20

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Bengaluru Saturday, April 18, 2026 Pages 38 Vol 79 No 107 ₹8

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WHACKY VERSE

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The northern states
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DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Allahabad HC orders FIR against Rahul

Petition filed in alleged dual citizenship case

P11

What I saw at a correctional facility

Prison is often imagined as grim and hopeless. Yet, at the Mysuru Central Prison, inmates are given a second chance at life through 'Parivarthana', a reformation programme run by the government.

The SATURDAY STORY

For this week's Saturday Story, a *DH* journalist spends a day at the correctional facility.

Full story, Page 17

Bill on women's quota defeated in Lok Sabha

Two-thirds majority eludes govt; 2 other related Bills not taken up

AMRITA MADHUKALYA & SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A Constitution amendment Bill on delimitation for early implementation of 33% women's quota was defeated in Lok Sabha on Friday after the Modi government failed to garner the required two-third majority at the consideration stage itself, as the Opposition remained united to vote it out.

After a debate that lasted around 21:27 hours in two days in which 123 MPs and ministers participated, the government managed 298 votes, five more than the ruling NDA's strength with YSR Congress voting in favour, while the Opposition got 230 votes, at least eight less than what it could have due to the absence of some of its MPs, including seven of 28 from Trinamool Congress, who were campaigning.

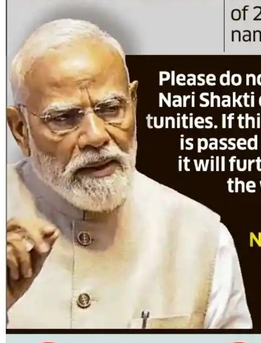
With 11 of the 540 MPs absent, the government needed 352 votes to take up the Bill for consideration and passing and in the first stage itself, it fell short of 54 votes. Following its defeat, two inter-linked Bills -- The Delimitation Bill, 2026 and The Union Territory Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 -- that required only a simple majority were not taken up.

The Opposition claimed victory in the Bill's fall in the Lok Sabha with Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi saying that they have "defeated an attack on the Constitution" while ruling NDA's women MPs protested against I.N.D.I.A bloc vote against the Bill, alleging that they have insulted women. This marks the first time that a Bill piloted by the Modi government did not pass muster.

▸ Delimitation, Page 4

VOTED OUT

- **Government manages 298 votes**, five more than the ruling NDA's strength with YSR Congress voting in favour
- **Government needed 352** votes to take up the Bill for consideration and passing and in the first stage itself, it fell short of 54 votes
- **Opposition gets 230 votes,** at least eight less, due to absence of some of its MPs, including seven of 28 from Trinamool Congress



Please do not deprive our Nari Shakti of new opportunities. If this amendment is passed unanimously, it will further empower the women of our country

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

"They were opposed to Shah Bano, they were opposed to triple talaq and now this move to expedite the women's reservation

AMIT SHAH
Home Minister

"The amendment bill has fallen. They used an unconstitutional trick in the name of women to break the Constitution

RAHUL GANDHI
Opposition leader

ANALYSIS

BJP plays martyr, blames 'anti-women' Oppn

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The defeat of the tweaked Women's Reservation Bill and the associated delimitation laws is the second major legislative setback for the Modi government after the repeal the three agriculture laws in 2021.

Over the last 48 hours, as Lok Sabha debated the women's quota Bill, it became clear that the government lacked two-thirds majority needed to get the Constitution Amendment Bill passed.

It was left with three options: send the Bill to a parliamentary committee for further discussion, withdraw the Bill or go down as martyr by going for a division. The BJP chose the third and accused the I.N.D.I.A bloc of creating impediments in the process of women empowerment.

"Those opposing will have to face the ire of women voters," Amit Shah said, replying to the Bill.

▸ Analysis, Page 4

Vinay Kulkarni sentenced to life for BJP leader's murder

BENGALURU, DHNS: A special court in Bengaluru on Friday sentenced Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni and 15 others to life imprisonment for the 2016 murder of BJP leader Yogeeshgouda Goudar.

Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat also directed that Rs 16 lakh, out of the total cost imposed on all accused persons, be paid to the three children of Yogeeshgouda and his brother, Gurunath Goudar.

BJP Zilla Panchayat member Yogeeshgouda was murdered in Dharwad on June 15, 2016. Following the court's sentencing, Vinay Kulkarni will face automatic disqualification as an MLA.

▸ Vinay Kulkarni, Page 4

Iran declares Hormuz 'completely open'

Trump says US blockade on Iran's ports will continue

TEHRAN/WASHINGTON, AGENCIES

In a major breakthrough, Iran on Friday said that the Strait of Hormuz is "completely open" for all commercial vessels, a move welcomed by US President Donald Trump.

Trump, however, said the naval blockade against Iran will remain in "full force" until Tehran reaches an agreement with the US to end the war.

The announcement of the reopening of the vital waterway by Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi comes a day after President Trump announced a 10-day ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel, one of the key demands of Iran.

"In line with the ceasefire in Lebanon, the passage for all commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz is declared completely open for the remaining period of the ceasefire," Araghchi posted on X.

Displaced people return to their homes after the ceasefire agreement, in Qasmiyeh, Lebanon, on Friday. REUTERS

▸ Iran, Page 4

Cap CS courses at 5 per institution: Expert panel

BENGALURU, DHNS: An expert committee on 'Reforms in Technical Education' has recommended that no institution should offer more than five computer science-related courses and that the total number of seats in these courses in an institution should not exceed 900.

The committee, headed by former IIIT-B director S Sadagopan, has submitted its report to the state government.

The expert panel's task was to suggest how the government could restrict admissions to computer science-related programmes and deal with an excess supply of graduates vying for tech jobs.

Also, by limiting the computer science (CS) courses, the government wants to encourage students to take up other streams of engineering.

▸ Engineering, Page 3B

Quickly

Bescom power bills to go up from May

Power bills under the Bescom jurisdiction will go up starting May, with the KERC on Friday allowing the company to recover the revenue deficit it had suffered in 2024-25 from the consumers.

Details on Page 3B

Bird flu confirmed at Hesaraghatta

A case of H5N1 Avian influenza (bird flu) has been confirmed at the Poultry Training Centre in Hesaraghatta. Measures have been taken to bring the situation under control, according to Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao.

Details on Page 3A

Govt issues stricter rules for trekkers

Trekkers on trails coming under the jurisdiction of the forest department will soon have to abide by a new set of rules that seek to enforce safety, with the department also promising much-needed basic facilities.

Details on Page 10

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SOLUTION IN SIGHT, FINALLY

City inches closer to a paid parking system

Corporations have floated tenders for pay-and-park systems. Will it help improve traffic and walkability?

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A defunct pay parking system on Vittal Mallya Road, Bengaluru.

Vehicles parked on the busy Residency Road, in Bengaluru.

An old and defunct paid parking system at St Mark's Road, Bengaluru.

Missing computer leaves a hole in a defunct pay and park system on MG Road.
DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

The lack of adequate parking for two-wheelers and four-wheelers is a long-standing problem in Bengaluru. On every street, vehicles are parked haphazardly along the roadside, restricting pedestrian and sometimes vehicular movement.

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has introduced a new pay-and-park initiative for the city, but it may still be a while before it is fully implemented, as the process in each corporation is still in the tender stage.

In 2020, the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) introduced a smart parking system in 10 locations in the Central Bengaluru District (CBD), including MG Road, St Mark's Road, Museum Road, and other key stretches.

According to this plan, people could use the yellow kiosks installed on the footpaths by themselves to generate a parking ticket. An app, called Namma Bengaluru Smart Parking App, was also developed for citizens to find parking spots and pay through it. However, the system failed to sustain over time, and the kiosks now lie idle, occupying portions of the footpaths.

The pay-and-park system returned to MG Road in September 2025. From Mayo Hall to the LIC building, the roadside has been used for parking. A private contractor is awarded the contract, and about five men collect parking fees. The price of parking two-wheelers for one hour is fixed at Rs 15 and cars at Rs 30.

Treating this as a pilot initiative, the GBA plans to introduce the pay-and-park system across the entire city in collaboration with the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT).

According to the DULT's recommendations, three kinds of parking would be beneficial for the city. One being regular roadside parking, the second being any GBA land where a system like multi-level parking can be built, and the last being empty private land where prices can be set and collected by the land owner.

What corporations are doing

Commissioner for North Corporation, Pommala Sunil Kumar, informed *DH* that the same proposal by DULT will be implemented across all city corporations. "The tender process has begun. Under North Corporation, we are currently planning for a 4.1-kilometre road in Yelahanka. We also had plans for Hebbal, but the plans are yet to be finalised," he explained.

For the Yelahanka project, the tenders are yet to be called. "We announced the tender for Rs 1.6 crores, but we did not have takers. We have reduced it to Rs 1.1 crore, and we have only one bidder, so we are in the process of finalising the tender," said the Commissioner.

In the South Corporation, the authorities plan to implement the project in the Jayanagar constituency spanning over 31 kilometres. On Thursday, the corporation also launched a pilot project of the AI-based smart parking system.

"The pilot study of the project has begun on the 27th main road of Jayanagar, and we have installed QR codes. A new app will be integrated into the system. Through the app, people will be able to check the empty spots, and when they arrive, they will know where to park," according to the Chief Engineer of the South Corporation, Basavaraj Kabade.

AI-based cameras have been installed to update the status on the app. "We have brought in cameras, and there will be checking from the backend. There are absolutely zero cash transactions. One has to scan the QR code, and on the basis of the parking time, the money will be calculated," he further explained.

There will be one person to monitor about 50-60 cars to make sure there are no violators. The tendering process for the project is yet to begin.

"We are planning pay-and-park facilities for six roads. We had invited tenders, but we did not have bidders, so we are issuing the tenders again," said Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar, Additional Commissioner for Bengaluru East City Corporation.

The authorities have no plans to introduce daily or monthly passes for regular users, for now. The GBA, in collaboration with the traffic department, has identified 66 new locations for Multi-Level Parking across the city. Currently, the facility is available near Freedom Park and Gandhi Bazar.

Impact of policy on the city

As the policy gradually takes shape, experts have begun to take positions on how this new initiative could impact the city.

KARTHIK REDDY
Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic)

"We (Traffic Department) have mapped out 448 places across the city, including arterial, sub-arterial roads, for the corporation to implement pay and park. Accordingly, they (corporations) will consider the locations.

D T Devare, a Bengaluru-based environmentalist, argued that a paid parking system would encourage more people to use public transport.

"While I agree that public transport is inadequate, paid parking is required to disincentivise the use of private vehicles and reduce congestion. Also, people must realise that they cannot use expensive roadside parking spaces for free. Just because the authorities are not doing enough to increase public transport, people cannot enjoy the luxury of free parking," said DT Devare.

He also opined that when more people use public transport, the pressure would be more on the government to make it more accessible and adequate.

DT Devare also pointed out that the Memorandum of Understanding between the state and Union governments for the metro projects, under the parking clause, states that the parking fee should be based on the market value of the land allotted for parking.

However, not everyone agrees with this view. Srikanth Narasimhan, Founder of the Bengaluru Navanirman Party, said, "The government must speed up the progress of metro projects and ensure they are completed soon. The frequency of the most-used buses must be increased, and the last-mile connectivity must be ensured. Until then, they cannot charge for all of this."

"If there are no good alternatives for private vehicles and people are charged for using private vehicles, should we stop commuting altogether?" he asked.

Public weigh over the policy

DH spoke to several regular two-wheeler and four-wheeler users, as they will be the ones most affected. While many of them pointed out that the prices set are expensive for daily users, others think it might bring some discipline to the city.

Hari Kumar, a resident of Sheshadripuram, explained how parking spaces become important even with good public transport. "I am more than happy to use public transportation, but the last-mile connectivity is mostly absent. I again have to rely on my two-wheeler to get to the bus stop, and there are no parking facilities there. If there are free or affordable safe parking spaces, it would be helpful for us to take the public transport," he explained.

For Rashmi Nagaraj, a resident of Banashankari Sixth Stage, her two-wheeler is the more viable option. "My nearest metro station is about three kilometres away. If I have to use the metro, I have to pay the fare, the cost of transportation from the metro to my office, and parking for my two-wheeler. It is a very costly affair. I would rather use my two-wheeler," she said.

Thousands like Rashmi end up needing a parking space. Many agreed that they would appreciate the system, but only if the parking rates were reasonable and affordable.

"A parking system is necessary in the city, but they should be able to enforce it right without loopholes. This should help in solving congestion caused by wrongly parked vehicles," said Nishanth Saini, a resident of Uttarahalli.

Namratha G, a resident of Jayanagar, feels that parking facilities are desperately needed, especially in her locality. "As more commercial establishments have come up without their own parking facilities, people have been parking on the roadside, creating traffic bottlenecks. They should, in fact, raise the parking fee," she argued

Feedback:
pointblank@deccanherald.co.in

METRO

Emerging GLP-1 use in hormonal conditions raises women's health safety concerns

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

GLP-1 drugs such as Ozempic and Mounjaro, used for diabetes and obesity, are now being explored for hormonal disorders such as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS).

Doctors said the use of GLP-1 agonists for PCOS is not standardised and varies among clinicians.

"GLP-1 receptor agonists improve insulin resistance, a key problem in many women with PCOS. They increase insulin sensitivity, reduce blood sugar levels, and promote weight loss. They also help lower excess insulin, which can trigger higher androgen (male hormone) production.

"This, in turn, can lead to symptoms like irregular periods, acne and excess hair growth. By reducing weight and balancing hormones, these drugs may help manage such symptoms," said Dr Gayathri Karthik Nagesh, Programme Director, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at a private hospital.

For women with PCOS who are not obese, doctors said the same drugs can be used alongside nutritional changes.

"While these drugs are largely used for weight reduction, they also help correct hormonal imbalances. In such cases, they are combined with dietary changes and weight training to preserve muscle mass while addressing hormonal issues," said Dr Sowmya KN, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist.

On the effects of long-term use, Dr Sowmya added: "Long-term use in young women can cause common side effects such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation and reduced appetite, especially in the early stages. Some may also experience headache, fatigue, or dizziness. In rare cases, more serious issues like pancreatitis, gall bladder problems, or kidney strain may occur. Reduced appetite can also lead to nutrient deficiencies."

She said long-term safety data in young women is limited, making regular medical monitoring important.

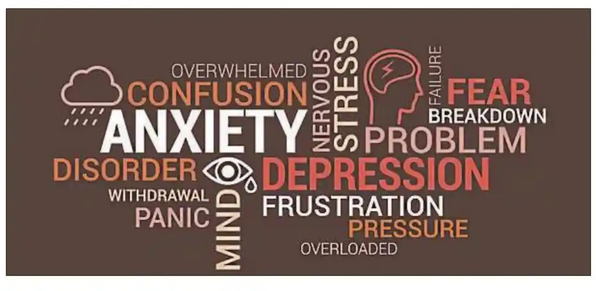
Ethical concerns

The use of these medications for Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) has also raised ethical concerns.

"One key ethical issue is accessibility. Patients who need these drugs for diabetes treatment may face restricted access due to their widespread use for unapproved weight loss. The treatments are also expensive and often not covered by insurance. There is also concern that some doctors may turn to these medications instead of prioritising lifestyle changes," said Dr Meghana Reddy Jetty, Senior Consultant in Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Laparoscopy and Aesthetic Gynaecology.

Nimhans lays out roadmap for safer use of mental health apps

BENGALURU, DHNS



The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (Nimhans) has issued guidelines for the safe and responsible use of technology, digital mental health applications, and key recommendations for stakeholders.

The recommendations come after a three-day conference on digital technologies and mental health.

A committee of experts presented six key recommendations to build a strong mental health ecosystem. These include constituting a high-powered committee to shape a national, tiered governance framework for mental health apps, and setting up a national directory for voluntary listing of apps meeting basic requirements to encourage transparency and responsible innovation.

To help users select the right app, an end-user friendly repository of mental health apps was recommended for virtual stores. A digital mental health literacy course for mental health service providers, ministry-approved guidelines for stakeholder groups, and a full-fledged department for applied research on digital mental health applications were also proposed.

Schools were advised to define screen-time norms, recommending less than one hour per day, while also taking steps to address cyber misconduct among students.

Dr Seema Mehrotra, Professor and Principal Investigator of the NIMHANS-ICMR Centre for Advanced Research, spoke about a systematic review of mobile apps accessible to users in India, pointing to concerns, including privacy and safety vulnerabilities, collaboration deficit, and crisis support deficit.

Dr Nitin Anand, Professor of Clinical Psychology and SHUT Clinic, Nimhans, stressed the need for a distress mechanism to track digital distress, address cyber incidents, and provide access to support services such as Tele-MANAS (14416).

On parental responsibility, Dr Anand said parents must supervise and regulate technology use at home through self-regulation. The experts said preventive programmes on early parenting education during pre-parenthood and early childhood stages can make a difference.

Schools were advised to define screen-time norms of under one hour per day, address cyber misconduct, and ensure counselling support.

The experts also called for policy changes to address the digital divide between government and private institutions, covering differences in access, training, and usage patterns, along with modifications ensuring inclusion for neurodiverse, disabled, queer, and other marginalised communities.

The government was advised to strengthen services through specialised clinics such as the SHUT Clinic and the Nimhans Digital Detox Helpline for managing psychosocial issues.

South Corporation reviews waste system after spike in public complaints

BENGALURU, DHNS: Following a rise in complaints on garbage black spots, Bengaluru South City Corporation Commissioner KN Ramesh held a review meeting on Friday with Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) officials.

The corporation decided to survey bulk waste generators and ensure waste collection through empanelled vendors.

Officials were instructed to monitor the daily performance of auto tippers and compactors.

The commissioner directed a close watch on the attendance and duties of marshals, link workers and pourakarmika supervisors.

He also ordered that notices be issued to contractors who fail to perform satisfactorily and recommended their termination.

1.2-km stretch of Ittamadu Road to be widened

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru West City Corporation Commissioner Rajendra KV on Friday reviewed the proposal to widen a 1.2-km stretch of Ittamadu Road during a site inspection with senior officials.

He said the project will be taken up by the Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd.

BHEL Junction park to be named after Sri Kengal Hanumanthaiah

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru West City Corporation has proposed naming the park developed at BHEL Junction on Mysuru Road as Sri Kengal Hanumanthaiah Smrutivana.

The civic body has invited objections or suggestions from the public within 30 days.

Submissions can be sent to the Office of the Additional Commissioner (Revenue), Bengaluru West City Corporation, 16th Cross, Malleswaram, IPP Centre.

Officials said that all responses received within the stipulated time period will be carefully reviewed. Based on this assessment, a final decision.

GBA polls: SEC to release final electoral rolls today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The final electoral rolls for the five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will be released on Saturday.

Maheshwar Rao

Bengaluru District Election Officer and Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao will publish the rolls at the GBA office.

The release of the final voter list marks a key step in the electoral process for the newly formed civic bodies, paving the way for the conduct of long-delayed elections.

Drunk man rams four vehicles

BENGALURU: A test drive turned into a chain of crashes in Mahadevapura's Vighneshwara Nagar after showroom staff allegedly allowed an intoxicated man to get behind the wheel.

The incident, which occurred on April 12, left one person with a fractured leg and four vehicles damaged.

The accused, Abhilash, had visited a Mahindra showroom to check a vehicle. Despite being under the influence of alcohol, he was reportedly given the keys for a test drive. Once on the road, he lost control and rammed into four vehicles.

A bystander, Ramesh, sustained a serious leg fracture in the collision and is currently undergoing treatment at a private hospital.

The incident triggered outrage among local residents and shopkeepers. An angry mob intercepted the car and allegedly assaulted Abhilash before handing him over to the authorities. He also sustained injuries in the scuffle and was later shifted to a hospital.

Mahadevapura Traffic Police have registered an FIR. "We have booked the driver under sections 281 (rash driving) and 125(a) (endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with relevant provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act," said an investigating officer.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Diamond Jubilee celebrations: 'Chiguru of Chaitra' children's summer camp; Organised by Madhuchaitra VM; Udayabhanu Kalasangha Hall, Kempegowda Nagar; 9.30 am.

6th Annual Convocation: B Ramesh, Uma Ramakrishnan, SS Naganand to attend; Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni Women's College, Malleswaram; 10 am.

Four decades of Karnataka Lokayukta-commemorative event: CJI Surya Kant; Guests: Aravind Kumar, BS Patil to attend; Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha; 2.30 pm onwards.

Book releases: 'Jeevanaave' (KV Nethravathi), 'Satiyemba Shabda' (K Shareefa), 'Ittige Goodina Kaavu' (Chandani) and Ambedkar celebrations; Revathi, Du. Saraswati, T Padmashree, Sirigouri to attend; Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

SVN Annual Music Festival: Roopa Shreekanth and Sangeetha Katti (vocal), Karthikeya R (violin), Aniruddha Vasudev (mridangam), Vyasamurthy Katti (harmonium), Rajendra Nakod (tabla); SVN Memorial Hall, Kanakapura Road; 3.15 pm onwards.

88th Sri Ramanavami Music Festival: Concert by Apoorva Hemmige Arun and troupe; Carnatic concert by Mysore Nagaraj, Mysore Manjunath, Neyveli Venkatesh, Pramath Kiran; Kote High School Grounds, Chamarajpet; 5 pm onwards.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	36.3°C
Minimum	24.6°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	34%
Sunset (April 18)	6:33 pm
Sunrise (April 19)	6:06 am
Moonrise	5:40 am
Moonset	6:29 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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Alliance Française to open media centre

BENGALURU, DHNS: The French Ambassador to India, Thierry Matou, will inaugurate a refurbished library and a new media centre at the Alliance Française de Bangalore in Vasanth Nagar on April 22.

The new media centre will be named after Kannada writer SL Bhyrappa, a Padma awardee and recipient of the Saraswati Samman. The upgraded facilities are part of efforts to strengthen cultural and educational engagement between India and France.

The ambassador will also inaugurate the 'Espace Campus France' centre, which aims to provide information and guidance to Indian students interested in pursuing higher education in France.

Several dignitaries are expected to attend the event, including Marc Lamy, Consul General of France in Bengaluru, and Karnataka Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, among others.

The programme will also feature cultural performances, including music by Kayaka and Slytrix, as well as a sand art presentation by Raghavendra Hegde.

PDO, associate held in Rs 1.2-lakh bribe trap

BENGALURU, DHNS: Lokayukta police trapped a Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) and her associate while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 1.2 lakh to process a khatha transfer in Nelamangala taluk.

The accused are Geethamani, PDO of Kalalghatta, and her associate Gangadhar, who runs a YouTube news channel in Nelamangala.

Police said the complainant, Heggenahalli resident Faizulla Sab, had approached the PDO for khatha transfer work.

The accused allegedly demanded Rs 1.5 lakh to clear the file. Acting on the complaint, a trap was laid and, on the PDO's instructions, the complainant handed over Rs 1.2 lakh to Gangadhar.

Both the accused have been arrested and further investigation is underway.

H5N1 bird flu confirmed at Hesaraghatta state poultry farm

What is H5N1?

H5N1 is a respiratory virus found in birds. Professor Veeregowda BM of the Veterinary College, Bengaluru, said no human cases have been reported in Karnataka, and no cases of the disease spreading from person to person have been recorded.

No human cases yet; 7,444 birds disposed of, 3-km zone sealed

BENGALURU, DHNS

A case of H5N1 avian influenza (bird flu) has been confirmed at the Poultry Training Centre in Matkur village, Hesaraghatta.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said immediate measures have been taken to bring the situation under control.

No human cases have been reported. Results were confirmed on April 14, and the Rapid Response Team visited the site on April 16. An infected zone covering a 3-km radius and a surveillance zone covering a 10-km radius from the site have been established.

Safe to consume eggs and chicken?

Professor Veeregowda said meat and eggs that are conventionally boiled or cooked are safe to consume, as viruses and bacteria cannot survive high temperatures. Half-boiled or raw poultry products should be avoided.

On April 15, in collaboration with the Animal Husbandry Department, 7,444 chickens, 14,000 eggs, and 2,250 kg of poultry feed were disposed of.

Ten staff members involved in the process have been quarantined and are under medical observation with Oseltamivir medication. The location has been declared a restricted area for one year.

The Health Department is monitoring the situation.

Within the 3-km radius, two villages with a population of 3,422 fall under the infected zone. The surveillance zone between 3 km and 10 km covers 17 villages, with a total population of 22,395.

Health and ASHA workers will conduct daily visits for 10 days to check for fever symptoms. Hospitals have been instructed to report suspected cases immediately. Strict orders have been issued to ensure adequate supply of PPE kits, masks, Oseltamivir, VTM, and throat swabs at the Hesaraghatta and Sonnenahalli primary health centres.

"The virus was detected in the primary inspection. We have moved swiftly to isolate the area and eliminate the risk," a senior veterinary officer told *DH*.

The Animal Husbandry Department has urged residents and poultry farmers in surrounding areas to report any unusual bird deaths immediately as sanitisation of the zone continues.

Guidelines for citizens

- Stay away from sick or dead birds
- If you notice anything unusual related to health or animals, inform the animal husbandry or health departments immediately
- Consume only well-cooked poultry meat and eggs

Kempegowda-centric works added to civic budgets

Corporations asked to rework plans

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Weeks after Bengaluru's five corporations presented budgets with a combined outlay of Rs 20,218 crore, the state government has directed them to accommodate a series of additional projects centered on Nadaprabhu Kempegowda.

While approving the budgets as part of the routine process, the Urban Development Department (UDD) — which reports to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio — proposed a set of new works linked to the 16th-century founder of Bengaluru.

Among the key proposals is the development of neglected historical sites in Magadi, once established as a capital by Kempegowda.

The project is estimated at Rs 90 crore, with the five corporations directed to collectively set aside Rs 30 crore in the current financial year.

A similar initiative has been proposed at the hillocks of Hutridurga (Uttari Betta) in Kunigal, where stone inscriptions associated with Kempegowda are located.

The corporations have been asked to contribute Rs 10 crore for works to be executed by the Kempegowda Development Authority.

The government has also proposed establishing a town planning institute in Kempegowda's name, with each corporation directed to allocate Rs 10 crore, taking the total outlay to Rs 50 crore.

In addition, Rs 5 crore has been earmarked for the maintenance of the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Advocates' Training Centre.

Continuing last year's initiative, the corporations will also fund Kempegowda Jayanthi celebrations across the state. A total of Rs 2.4 crore has been set aside for celebrations in all taluks.

In Bengaluru, events will be held in all ward offices with Rs 3.69 crore allocated, at Rs 1 lakh per ward.

A further Rs 5 lakh has been earmarked for an event to be organised by the Bengaluru Advocates' Association.

With no additional budgetary provision announced for these works, officials indicated that corporations may have to revisit existing allocations and prune ongoing projects to accommodate the new proposals.

Rs 3,000-cr grant split among corporations

In the state budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced a Rs 3,000-crore grant for Bengaluru's development. The UDD has distributed the funds among the five corporations based on their revenue potential.

Siddaramaiah

The West Corporation has received the highest allocation at Rs 667.74 crore, while the East has received the lowest at Rs 298.10 crore. The North and South corporations have been allotted Rs 429.27 crore each, and the Central Corporation Rs 375.61 crore. The total allocation stands at Rs 2,199.99 crore.

The remaining Rs 800.01 crore has been distributed to other agencies, including Rs 600 crore to B-SMILE for infrastructure works and Rs 200.01 crore to BSWML for solid waste management.

Anticipating an additional Rs 250-crore government grant, the UDD has made tentative allocations across corporations: Rs 50 crore (West), Rs 75 crore (North), Rs 25 crore (South), and Rs 100 crore (Central).

A view of the Kalena Agrahara metro station on the Pink Line. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Rly Board nod for Pink Line RDSO trials

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Decks have finally been cleared for key Pink Line train trials as the Railway Board has given the necessary clearances for conducting the RDSO tests.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) received the clearance on Friday.

A team from the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) is set to arrive in Bengaluru on April 24, with trials expected to begin a few days afterwards, well-placed sources told *DH*.

The trials will take at least 10 days, covering oscillation, braking, speed, and track and system integration tests. Without the RDSO trial certification, new trains cannot operate.

The Pink Line trains have been made by Bengaluru-headquartered rolling stock manufacturer BEML, which has so far delivered five rakes of six coaches each.

While BEML supplied the first train (prototype) in December, RDSO trials were delayed after the Railway Board raised queries about certain technical issues related to design approvals, the sources explained.

If trials are successful, the RDSO will issue a report and a speed certificate, which the BMRCL will submit to the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) for rolling stock inspection and final approval from the Ministry of Railways. After this, the RDSO will issue the final speed certificate.

The BMRCL will take his certificate to the CMRS for a statutory inspection of the line for passenger operations. It will also require the Independent Safety Assessment (ISA) certification for signalling and train control systems.

The whole process—RDSO trials to CMRS certification—will take at least two months, the sources added.

This effectively means that the May-end deadline for the Pink Line's 7.5-km Kalena Agrahara-Taverekere section will not be met. The BMRCL has not revised the deadline.

The elevated metro stretch will bring connectivity to Bannerghatta Road and create Bengaluru's third interchange at Jayadeva Hospital. With five trains, peak-hour frequency on the stretch will be about five minutes. BEML is expected to supply more trains in the coming months, the sources said.

Meanwhile, architectural finishing works — undertaken after the main structure is completed—at the six elevated metro stations are nearing completion.

The elevated line's opening will expand the Bengaluru metro network to 103.6 km, helping reclaim the second spot from Mumbai (101.43 km).

The Pink Line's 13.75-km underground section (Dairy Circle-Nagawara) is slated to open in December.

The seized contraband on display before it was disposed of.

NCB destroys 128 kg seized narcotic substances

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Narcotics Control Bureau, Bengaluru unit, on Thursday said it destroyed 128.75 kg of seized narcotic substances.

"The seized drugs were destroyed by incineration in the presence of the Drug Disposal Committee constituted for this purpose.

"The destruction was carried out in an environmentally friendly manner at a certified facility," the NCB said in a statement.

"A total of 128.75905 kg of seized contraband, including ganja, hydroponic ganja, cocaine, methamphetamine, MDMA & THC, having an estimated street value of Rs 38 crore pertaining to 13 cases, were disposed of at M/s Century Refineries, Hoskote, Bengaluru," the NCB added.

The agency said 1,735 kg of seized drugs worth Rs 49 crore have been destroyed so far this year by the NCB, Bengaluru Zonal Unit.

CORRIGENDUM NO. 03 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2026/MAR/01, DATED. 03-03-2026

Corrigendum No. 03 for Tender Notice No. CON/2026/MAR/01, dated: 03-03-2026 against **Tender No. CE-CON-DESIGN-GC-2026-01** has been published. For details please visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

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S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No. : DRMENGGRNC-24-32-2026, Dated 16.04.2026. Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), S.E.Railway, Ranchi-834003 for and on behalf of The President of India for the following works : **Sl. No. & Notice No.; Name of work; Tender value; EMD Value**: **(1) DRMENGGRNC-24-2026;** Execution of work for Flash Butt Welding for 60Kg/60EI- R-260 rails in the Jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Muri of Ranchi division; ₹ 1,00,04,478/-; ₹ 2,00,100/-. **(2) DRMENGGRNC-25-2026;** Execution of work for Flash Butt Welding for 60Kg/60EI- R-260 rails in the Jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Ranchi of Ranchi division; ₹ 80,03,582.40; ₹ 1,60,100/-. **(3) DRMENGGRNC-26-2026;** Execution of work for Flash Butt Welding for 60Kg/60EI- R-260 rails in the Jurisdiction of Sr. Divisional Engineer (South) Ranchi; ₹ 1,27,32,972/-; ₹ 2,54,700/-. **(4) DRM ENGGRNC-27-2026;** Ranchi Division - Execution of work for Flash Butt Welding for 60Kg/60EI- R-260 Rail at different Location in Ranchi division; ₹ 1,45,51,968/-; ₹ 2,91,000/-. **(5) DRMENGGRNC-28-2026;** Execution of work for Flash Butt Welding for 60Kg/60EI- R-260 rails in the Jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (East) Ranchi; ₹ 72,75,984/-; ₹ 1,45,500/-. **(6) DRMENGG RNC-29-2026;** Execution of the work TRR(P) in Muri-Hatia (20.693 Tkm) and CTR(S) in Muri - Hatia (3.745Tkm); ₹ 2,97,56,807.61; ₹ 5,95,100/-. **(7) DRM ENGGRNC-30-2026;** Execution of the work TSR(P) in Muri - Chandil (1.740 Tkm) & Muri - Hatia (12.843 Tkm.) and TRR(S) Muri - Hatia (3.982 Tkm), Muri - Barkakana (5.131 Tkm) & Ranchi -Tori -TRR(S) - 2.750 Tkm.; ₹ 3,62,43,617.11; ₹ 7,24,900/- **(8) DRMENGGRNC-31-2026;** Execution of P. Way works related with TRR(P) in between Muri-Barkakana section under the jurisdiction Divisional Engineer (East) Ranchi; ₹ 69,56,332.90; ₹ 1,39,100/-. **(9) DRMENGGRNC-32-2026;** Execution for the work of Cutting/Trimming of tree branches/bushes, soil/rock heap cutting to improve signal visibility; ₹ 1,01,88,963.49; ₹ 2,03,800/-. **Tender Closing date & time**: 08.05.2026 at 15.00 hrs. for sl. no. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 9 and 11.05.2026 at 15.00 hrs. for sl. no. 6, 7 & 8. Tenderers can visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for online tendering. **(PR-56)**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: SWR-SBC-IOH-PL-CL-SGT Dated: 10.04.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
South Western Railway - Bengaluru (SBC) Division: **(i)** Provision of Signal & Telecommunication arrangements at Satellite Goods Terminal (SGT) for construction of New IOH Shed with EOT over Bengaluru Division. **(ii)** Provision of Telecom Arrangement for Construction of new pit line and renovation of existing pit line in AC Loco Trip Shed at Satellite Goods Terminal (SGT) Station & **(iii)** Provision of Telecom arrangement for new crew lobby at Satellite Goods Terminal (SGT).	Rs. 89,20,943.81

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 04.05.2026**
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EASTERN RAILWAY
Abridged e-Tender No. : DCPM-GS-ENG-SDAH-02-26-27 (Open tender in Two Packet System), dated 13.04.2026. Tender for e-Tendering is invited by Dy. Chief Project Manager/Gati Shakti Unit/Engg./Sealdah, Eastern Railway, Remote Control Building, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work : **Name of the work :** Sealdah Division : Kanchrapara Workshop Gate - Provision of low shed, renovation of service buildings at Rolling Stock Tesing Line, Renovation of various diplorable service buildings at Kanchrapara Workshop Gate alongwith HD flooring at S/9, 9A, 10, 11, 11A & 14, Provision of deep pit, construction of service building, replacement of existing damaged roof sheets at Rolling stock testing line etc. under Dy. CPM/Engg/Sealdah. **Approx. Value:** ₹ 26,21,79,492.12. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 52,43,600/-. **Cost of Tender documents:** Nil. **Completion period :** 18 Months. **Date of opening :** 05.05.2026, 15.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.
(SDAH-12/2026-27)
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
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Child rescued

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru police rescued a missing child and reunited him with his parents on April 14.

The parents of the seven-year-old alerted the 112 hotline at 5.19 pm about the child missing from their house. The control room immediately informed Hoysala-204, on duty at the Hulimavu police station. Assistant Sub Inspector Ramakrishna and Head Constable Govinda received the information and rushed to the spot.

"The police reached the location within just 12 minutes and gathered necessary details about the child. They conducted a search operation in the surrounding areas and, through sustained efforts, successfully traced the child about 4 km away," the police said.

"After confirming the identity of the child and ensuring his safety, the police reunited him with his parents. They also advised the family to keep a close watch on children to prevent such incidents in the future."

Man stabs wife, smashes head with iron handle

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 69-year-old man has been arrested for attempt to murder after he allegedly attacked his wife with a knife following a family dispute in Bengaluru.

The accused, Mohammed Munawar, a retired automobile showroom employee, allegedly assaulted his wife, 55-year-old Dura Shahwar, who is a private school teacher in Sarjapur. The couple live in Kasavanahalli.

Police said the incident occurred around 5.30 pm when Munawar got into an argument with his wife over their children's refusal to wed despite attaining adulthood. He blamed her for not convincing their son and daughter to get married.

Upset over the issue, he allegedly attacked her with a knife repeatedly and smashed her head using the back seat handle of a two wheeler, leaving her critically injured.

Their daughter, who was outside the house, heard her mother's screams and rushed in to find her lying in a pool of blood. She shifted her to a nearby hospital, where her condition remains critical.

Based on a complaint, Bellandur police registered a case and arrested Munawar for further investigation.

Case in February

In February, a retired employee of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) was arrested for strangling his wife to death at their apartment in Avalahalli near Whitefield.

The accused, 76-year-old K Nageshwar Rao, who was suffering from mental distress, had killed his wife, 63-year-old Sandhya Sri, before attempting to end his life.

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CRICKET RACKET

IPL black market trail leads to alleged KSCA member

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru police are searching for a man claiming to be a Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) member, suspected in an IPL ticket racket, with 11 cases registered.

"Till the suspect, identified as Ganesh Harikesh, is arrested, we can't declare that he is associated or affiliated with the KSCA. He was named in the FIR after another arrested suspect claimed that he was given the match tickets by Harikesh, who had told him he was a KSCA member. As of now, Harikesh remains at large, and efforts are underway to trace him," a senior CCB source told *DH*.

The source added that 11 suspects have been arrested across 11 cases so far.

Another investigator said insider involvement could not be ruled out.

"Due to the m-ticketing format, it is not easy to black market tickets this year. Hence, it is obvious to suspect an insider connection due to the bulk purchases made. It will be clear once the absconder is arrested," the officer said.

Harikesh came under the police radar after the April 15 arrest of 49-year-old Chandra Shekar P, a captain at Shree Lakshmi Caterers at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Shekar had told plainclothes policemen that he had IPL tickets and quoted Rs 19,000 for a Rs 15,000 ticket before his arrest. He also claimed he had links and passwords to the tickets.

Shekar told investigators that he and Harikesh had on March 28 sold tickets illegally for higher profit for the season opener between defending champions RCB and SRH at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

He also said Harikesh had told him he had 100 tickets for the April 15 match between RCB and LSG. Shekar was allegedly looking for buyers.

Further questioning revealed that Harikesh had purchased 81 tickets for the season opener worth Rs 6.60 lakh in the name of Swastik Heavy Engineering and Industrial Automation Consultant Company. The CCB probe revealed that 181 tickets of various denominations worth Rs 17.52 lakh were purchased from TicketGenie and sold in the black market at higher prices.

Police said 50 tickets for the RCB Vs LSG match were purchased from TicketGenie in the name of Swastik Heavy Engineering and Industrial Automation Consultant Company, and another 50 tickets in the name of Dharani Computers Company. They were sold in the black market at higher prices. Police said they are verifying the two firms.

Previous busts

May 2025: Two constables suspended over black market ticket sales

May 2025: Four, including a temporary KSCA member, arrested for illegal sales

April 2025: Five arrested for reselling complimentary tickets sent to a private company

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, ROAD DIVISION, DUMKA

1ST CORRIGENDUM DETAILS of NIT
TENDER REFERENCE No.- RCD/DUMKA/514
PR 376744 (Road) 26-27*D

NAME OF THE WORK - Construction of High Level Bridge over Dhowae River at ch 41st km and Construction of High Level Bridge over Mudko River at ch 30th km of Dumka-Hansdiha Road under Road Division Dumka for the year 2026-27.
CORRIGENDUM DETAIL of NIT

4	Date of Publication of Tender on Website – 23.04.2026 10:30 AM **in place of** 17.04.2026 10:30 AM
5	Last date/Time for receipt of bids19.05.2026 Up to 12.00 Noon **in place of** 13.05.2026 Up to 12.00 Noon
6	Date of opening of Tender – 20.05.2026 at 12.30 PM **in place of** 14.05.2026 at 12.30 PM

Other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer
Road Construction Department,
Road Division, Dumka

PR 377745 Road (26-27)_D

Key suggestions

- No institution should offer more than 5 CS-related courses
- Capping CS seats alone risks brain drain
- Include AI components in all core engg streams
- Applicable to pvt universities & pvt engg colleges
- Reduce overall CS seats by 17% from 2026-27 academic yr
- Redirect freed seats to core + AI branches
- Embed AI & machine learning as analytical instrument to all undergraduate engg disciplines

Recommendations for Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) & pvt deemed to be universities

- Introduce core+AI curriculum in all institutions
- If system-wide vacancy rate in any discipline exceeds 40% for two consecutive KEA cycles, the institution will be placed in a reduced intake review
- Update baseline annually

Panel suggests capping CS seats...

Engineering, From Page 1

Though the state government had plans to put a cap on seats for CS and related courses in the 2026-27 academic year, the committee opined that capping CS seats alone risks brain drain. Instead, it has recommended introducing AI components into core streams like mechanical, civil and automobile engineering.

This will be applicable to both private universities and private engineering colleges, as mentioned in the report.

It also suggested reducing overall CS seats by 17% from 2026-27 academic year and redirecting the freed seats to core + AI branches.

"Pair the cap with core-branch transformation. Capping CS alone risks brain drain. Introduce core + AI curriculum and faculty training, adopt the nine-step re-balancing formula as the annual sanction standard from 2026-27, refresh the three-year baseline from 2027-28 academic year," the committee recommended.

The committee also recommended embedding AI and machine learning as an analytical instrument to all undergraduate disciplines, not a standalone elective, with mathematics as the backbone. "Mandate test-to-failure product labs every semester from 2027-28, anchored in active learning and professional ethics. Scale core + AI competent core engineering output from 22,000 to 75,000 graduates per year," it said.

Meanwhile, for new institutions, it has recommended an intake of 60 students for any given course for any private university or private engineering college to begin with. Further, the committee recommended an increment of 60 intake per year, subject to a maximum of total 180 seats for the first four years.

Interestingly, to ensure quality, the committee recommended mandatory NBA (National Board of Accreditation) certificate for the institutions whose intake crosses more than 300 in a particular discipline within the two years from the date of publication of these regulations. The higher education department can initiate action against the institutions that fail to follow the guidelines.

To maintain standards in higher education, the committee recommended inspection of private universities once every two years and also surprise visits by a committee constituted by the Karnataka State Higher Education Council.

The committee also recommended the government to mandate sub-branch restructuring plans for three private universities, Presidency, Sapthagiri and Dayananda Sagar. It can be recalled that these institutions reportedly recorded the highest admissions for CS and related branches during the 2025-26 academic year.

'Make Kannada mandatory for auto, cab drivers'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Citing the Maharashtra government's recent move mandating proficiency in Marathi for auto and taxi drivers, KPCC spokesperson A N Nataraj Gowda has urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to implement a similar policy in Karnataka.

In a letter to the CM, Gowda requested that the state follow the Maharashtra model, where starting May 1, all commercial vehicle drivers must be able to read, write and speak the local language (Marathi) to hold a license.

The number of auto and cab drivers from outside the state is increasing rapidly in various cities of the state, including in Bengaluru. Since they do not speak Kannada, local Kannadigas are struggling to communicate in their own state. He also expressed concern over the rising incidence of Kannadigas facing harassment owing to the language gap in cabs. Rules should be framed to suspend or cancel the commercial licence of vehicle drivers who refuse to learn Kannada. Strict disciplinary action should be taken against transport officials who flout language rules and issue licence through corruption. He asserted that it is the duty of anyone who earns a living in Karnataka to learn and respect the land, water and language of the state.

The Maharashtra government has already begun testing drivers at Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) on their ability to read nameplates and conduct basic conversations. Gowda argued that implementing a similar bold decision is necessary to protect the self-respect and interests of Kannadigas.

Bescom electricity bills set to be dearer from May

KERC allows revenue deficit recovery from consumers

BENGALURU, DHNS

Power bills for all categories of consumers under the Bescom jurisdiction will go up starting May, with the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) on Friday passing an order allowing the electricity supply company to recover the Rs 2,068-crore revenue deficit it had suffered in 2024-25 from the consumers. As a result, for every unit they consumed in 2024-25, the consumers will have to shell out an additional 56 paisa.

The amount will be recovered through the year 2026-27 in equal installments in every month's power bill.

"Bescom shall calculate, for each of the active consumers of FY 2024-25, the amount to be recovered based on their actual energy consumption during FY 2024-25. Such amount shall be recovered during FY 2026-27 in equal monthly instalments, to be called as 'FY25 true-up charges', commencing from the first meter reading date falling on or after May 1, 2026, and concluding with the reading date ending on April 30, 2027," the order said.

Bescom officials justified the true-up charges, saying they are required since the actual performance of the company and the projections approved by the KERC would be different.

"Every year, ESCOMs operate on the basis of projected costs and revenues approved by the KERC through the annual tariff order. However, actual performance during the year may differ from these approved projections due to changes in consumer consumption patterns, tariff revisions, input costs and other operational factors," a senior Bescom official said.

Similarly, the Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) has recorded a revenue deficit of Rs 121.71 crore and is eligible to collect additional 15 paisa per unit from consumers.

True-up charges allow ESCOMs to reconcile the difference between approved estimates and actual outcomes, officials said.

For every unit consumed in 2024-25, the consumers will have to shell out an additional 56 paisa.

What caused the revenue deficit

According to Bescom, various factors have contributed to the revenue deficit.

These include higher thermal energy allocation and power purchase costs, and reduced rainfall resulting in higher power consumption by irrigation pumpsets, among others.

Meanwhile, the Mangalore Electricity Supply Company (Mescom) has shown a revenue surplus of Rs 63.32 crore and will refund 15 paisa for each unit consumed by customers in 2024-25. Similarly, the Hubli Electricity Supply Company (Hescom) will refund 10 paisa as it has recorded a revenue surplus of Rs 153.46 crore. The Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company (Gescom) also recorded a revenue surplus of Rs 90.42 crore and will refund 10 paisa.

Recently, the KERC had revised its power tariff order of March 2025 and increased the tariff for industrial and commercial users.

CWC team visits Panchamasali peeth

HARIHAR, DHNS: Following allegations that Vachanananda seer had abused children at Panchamasali Gurupeeth in Harihar, a four-member team of District Child Welfare Committee (CWC) led by chairperson Manjula Mahesh visited the mutt on Friday for an inspection.

The team obtained detials from the seer. The team also went to the room where the children stayed, the seer's residence, and the dining hall as part of an inspection.

Speaking to media persons, Manjula Mahesh said that the children alleged that the seer manhandled them and did not give them medicine when they were unconscious. A detailed report would be submitted to the higher authorities and a decision would be taken on filing a complaint as per their instructions.

The seer said: "Whatever happens will be for good, this is a war between dharma and adharma", he said.

KERC order: Industrialists, domestic consumers unhappy

Question rationale of retrospective orders

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The KERC order allowing Bescom to recover revenue deficit by collecting higher charges from consumers for power consumed in 2024-25 has drawn the ire of consumers.

The experts opined that such order defeats the purpose of a multi-year tariff system. KERC had issued a multi-year tariff order (2025-26 to 2027-28) sparking hope among consumers that the tariff will not change every year. However, recently, KERC revised its own order increasing the tariff for industries and commercial establishments and now it has approved the true up charges.

"The whole idea of the multi-year tariff order was to ensure tariff certainty. Tariff certainty helps industries and establishments plan their operation costs. Such variations hurt their business. We are not progressing in the right direction," said M G Prabhakar, energy expert and former advisory council member, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC).

The order will increase the burden on industries and result in losses, industrialists said. "We cannot go back to our customers and ask them to pay us more. Such retrospective orders hurt the industries and put them under pressure," said Uma Reddy, President, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI).

Many domestic consumers also opined that it was unfair to bill the customers for power consumed back in 2024-25. "For those covered under Gruha Jyothi, it may not be a big problem. But we moved to a rented house after the announcement of the scheme and we are not eligible for the scheme. Every family plans its budget based on the expenses. If we knew back in 2024 that the power charges are high, we would have tried to bring down our consumption. It is unfair for Bescom to now say that we have to pay more for what we consumed nearly two years ago," said Srinivas K, a resident of JP Nagar.

Many others also opined that Bescom should first improve its performance before increasing the tariff. "The losses are high and even to this day power cuts are common. In such a situation, increasing the charges alone without working on ground is against the consumers," said Raghav, a resident of Yelahanka.

KDA urges govt to develop century-old schools

BENGALURU, DHNS

Kannada Development Authority (KDA) chairperson Purushottam Bilimale has submitted a report compiled by the KDA on government schools that have been around for a century or more to Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa. The report offers suggestions and recommendations on reviving and improving these old schools.

As many as 3,139 government schools in the state were found to have crossed the century mark by December 2025. The KDA has recommended declaring each of these as a 'heritage school with historical importance'.

"At least one such school at the hobli level must be developed as a special school where education is not limited to the content of the textbooks. Such schools must offer lessons in music, dance, and sports to children, so they can function as skill development centres," the report recommended.

KDA REPORT

"When temples and forts can be considered part of the state's heritage, why should schools not be counted as well?

The KDA has also urged the government to commission a detailed study on century-old schools at the district level. "When temples and forts can be considered part of the state's heritage, why should schools not be counted as well," questioned the KDA.

Although there was a circular in 2019 calling for the publication of a book and the making of a video on 100-year-old schools, neither materialised. "Let the book on 100-year-old schools be published at least by the end of the year," KDA said.

Government schools in the state were being closed without a proper study being conducted over the past ten years, rued the KDA. Bemoaning the drop in enrolment at thousands of government schools, KDA called for an in-depth study to explain the decline.

"The Department of School Education appears not to have kept the interests of 100-year-old schools in mind while approving establishment of private schools," the KDA remarked. Acknowledging the surge in enrolment at schools where bilingual teaching was introduced, the KDA, nevertheless, pointed out that admission had dropped to single digits in many schools, which could face the prospect of closure in the future.

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Advt. No. R&P/314/2026 **Date: 12.03.2026**

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of **Assistant Professor** in the Academic Pay Level-10 of the 7th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix, in the **Centre for Hindu Studies,** University of Delhi. The last date for receipt of application is two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. For details, please visit the University website **www.du.ac.in** and click **"Advertisement - Departments"** under the Head **"Work with DU"**.

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CBC 21231/12/0011/2627

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Advt. No. R&P/320/2026 **Date: 17.03.2026**

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from the eligible candidates for appointment to the posts of **Associate Professor,** in the Academic Pay Level 13A, and **Professor** in the Academic Pay Level 14 as per 7th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix, in **Department of Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Electronics and Communication Engineering, Faculty of Technology,** University of Delhi. The last date for receipt of applications is two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. For more details, please visit the University website **www.du.ac.in** and click **"Jobs and Opportunities"** under the Head **"Work with DU".**

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Phone - 0651-2401040, 2401067 Fax - 0651-2401040
Email - japit_doit@rediffmail.com

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE
(Ref. No. – JAP-IT/CCTV/AMC/04/2026)
The tender for "Selection of Service Provider for Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of IP CCTV System installed at various District Courts" (Ref. No. – JAP-IT/CCTV/AMC/04/2026) is hereby cancelled. (PR-373610)

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CBC 22107/12/0001/2627

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Advt. No. R&P/318/2026 **Date: 17.03.2026**

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of **Professor** in the Academic Pay Level-14 of the 7th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix, in the Departments of **Botany, Commerce, Economics, English, and Psychology,** University of Delhi. The last date for receipt of applications is two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. For more details, please visit the University website **www.du.ac.in** and click "**Jobs and Opportunities**" under the Head "**Work with DU**".

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CBC 21231/12/0006/2627

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Advt. No. R&P/316/2026 **Date: 17.03.2026**

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of Assistant Professor in the Academic Pay Level-10 of the 7th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix, in the Departments of **Computer Science, Economics, and Psychology,** University of Delhi. The last date for receipt of application is two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. For details, please visit the University website **www.du.ac.in** and click **"Advertisement - Departments"** under the Head **"Work with DU".**

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CBC 21231/12/0002/2627

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Advt. No. R&P/317/2026 **Date: 17.03.2026**

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of **Associate Professor** in the Academic Pay Level-13A of the 7th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix, in the Departments of **Botany, Commerce, Computer Science, Economics, English, and Psychology,** University of Delhi. The last date for receipt of applications is two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News. For more details, please visit the University website www.du.ac.in and click **"Jobs and Opportunities"** under the Head "**Work with DU**".

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UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Advt. No. R&P/319/2026 **Date: 17.03.2026**

Online applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form from the eligible candidates for appointment to the post of **Assistant Professor,** in the Academic Pay Level 10 as per 7th Central Pay Commission Pay Matrix, in Department of **Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Electronics and Communication Engineering, Faculty of Technology,** University of Delhi. The last date for receipt of application is two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News.For more details, please visit the University website **www.du.ac.in** and click **"Advertisement-Department"** under the Head **"Work with DU".**

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MAHATMA GANDHI INSTITUTE FOR RURAL INDUSTRIALISATION (MGIRI)
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Ph. - 07152-253512 Fax : 07152-240328. Website :- www.mgiri.org

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR IN MGIRI, WARDHA, MAHARASHTRA

Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural industrialization (MGIRI), a national level Institute under the administrative control of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises located at Wardha. Maharashtra, invites application for the post of Director from eligible Indian Nationals.

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for filling up of the post of Director in MGIRI Wardha. Maharashtra in the pay scale of Rs.1,44,200-2,18,200 (Pay Level-14 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix) Details and prescribed application form is available at website:- www.mgiri.org. and www msme.gov.in. The last date for receipt of application is 25.05 2026

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IN LOVING MEMORY

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of

R GANGADHAR

DOB: 01/06/1948 DOD 16/04/2026

He passed away peacefully on 16th April 2026, leaving behind a life marked by grace, strength, and quiet impact.

"You gave us roots with your love and wings with your wisdom. We carry you with us, always"

Fondly remembered and deeply missed by his spouse. children, family and friends.

HC directs state not to change SSLC exam evaluation procedure

It will be as per prevailing circular: Govt advocate

BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the state government not to change the procedure of evaluation for the SSLC examination.

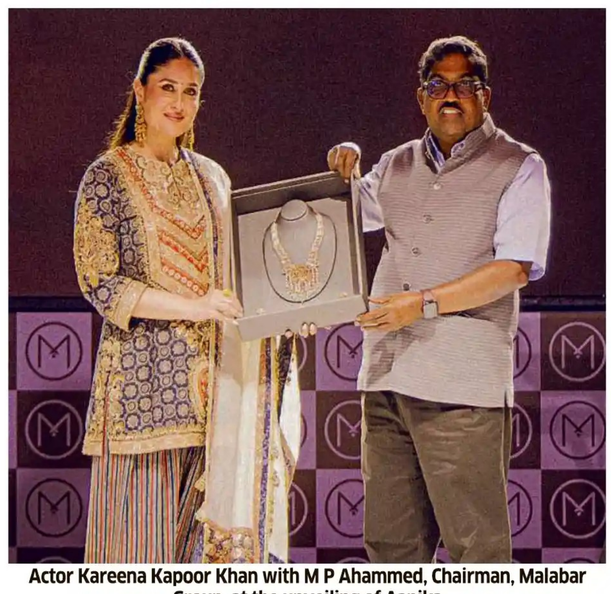
"The respondents (Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board) are directed to conduct the valuation of recently conducted examinations for SSLC as per the existing rules which were prevailing as on the date of the issuance of notification as to the examination for the academic year 2025-26," Justice E S Indiresh said in his order.

It is also to be noted that, the respondent-state shall not change the procedure as to valuation without there being existence of the rules/circular issued on the date of issuance of the notification to conduct examination.

This petition was filed by three students who had appeared for SSLC examination held between March 18 and April 2, 2026, seeking directions that the authorities be directed to follow the circular dated October 28, 2025. The petitioners raised apprehension about the recent statement by Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa about introducing grading system in the valuation of examination papers pertaining to the third language in the SSLC examination. On the other hand, the government advocate submitted that the valuation for the SSLC examination will be conducted as per the circular prevailing as on today.

"It is well-settled principle in law that, there shall not be any change in the rules of the game in the midway and implies stability or a strict adherence to the guidelines or rules issued at the time of starting of the game," Justice Indiresh said, while disposing of the petition.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils Aanika


Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan with M P Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group, at the unveiling of Aanika

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveiled Aanika, an exquisite collection of natural diamond jewellery inspired by sacred traditions and divine artistry. Launched around the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya by actor Kareena Kapoor Khan, the collection brings together cultural richness and contemporary elegance.

Rooted in devotion and prosperity that defines Akshaya Tritiya, Aanika reinterprets heritage for the modern woman. Across generations, gold and natural diamonds have symbolised purity, permanence and prosperity. Honouring this legacy, the collection celebrates the rarity and authenticity of natural diamonds formed over billions of years, making each piece not just jewellery, but a timeless embodiment of Nature's finest artistry.

Aanika draws inspiration from temple architecture, sacred geometry and intricate carvings. Bringing to life divine stories, crafted in natural diamonds, is the essence of the collection. Age-old motifs are transformed into refined, contemporary designs, where arches, spires and ornamental patterns are reimagined into fluid silhouettes. Each creation is illuminated by ethically-sourced natural diamonds, reflecting individuality, brilliance and enduring value.

DH Malabar Gold & Diamonds

From statement necklaces echoing temple silhouettes to intricately-detailed earrings inspired by ancient artistry, every creation showcases exceptional craftsmanship. Heritage kadas and rhythmic bangles extend the narrative, offering versatile designs that transition seamlessly from festive occasions to modern-day elegance all anchored in the timeless allure of natural diamonds.

M P Ahammed, Chairman, Malabar Group, said, "Aanika reflects our commitment to preserving heritage while evolving with the aspirations of today's consumers".

Curated by DH Brandspot

Iran declares Hormuz 'completely open'

Iran, from Page 1

Araghchi, however, said the ships must sail "on the coordinated route as already announced" by the Ports and Maritime Organisation of Iran.

Minutes later, President Trump shared the announcement in a post on Truth Social.

"Iran has just announced that the Strait of Iran is fully open and ready for full passage. Thank you!" Trump said, referring to the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump said the Strait of Hormuz "is completely open and ready for business and full passage, but the naval blockade will remain in full force and effect as it pertains to Iran, only, until such time as our transaction with Iran is 100% complete. This process should go very quickly in that most of the points are already negotiated".

He also said Iran, with help from the US, is working to remove all sea mines from the Strait of Hormuz.

He added that Iran has "agreed to never close the Strait of Hormuz again. It will no longer be used as a weapon against the World!"

Trump also signaled Friday that an Iran peace deal was all but done.

He talked up the likelihood of a nuclear deal while insisting that no money would change hands after an Axios report that Washington was considering a $20 billion cash-for-uranium exchange.

"The U.S.A. will get all Nuclear 'Dust,' created by our great B2 Bombers - No money will exchange hands in any way, shape, or form," Trump said in another post.

Axios reported that the US and Iran were negotiating a plan that would include Washington releasing $20 billion in frozen Iranian funds in return for Iran giving up its stockpile of enriched uranium.

Strait of Hormuz.

Nine of Sirwar family killed in car-bus collision near Surpur

YADGIR, DHNS

Nine members of a family from Sirwar in Raichur district died after the car they were travelling in collided with a private bus head-on near Shantapur Cross in Surpur taluk on Friday morning.

The police have identified the deceased as Krishna Nayak (52) his wife Ananthakala Krishna (45), their daughter Neesarga Sharanappa (30), son-in-law Sharanappa (36) grandchildren Siddhartha (5) Adwik Sharanappa (5) and Srinidhi (one-and-a-half years), Sharanappa's niece Shashikala (30) and her daughter Chandana (8).

Shashikala's son, Virat (10), escaped with injuries and is being treated at a hospital in Yadgir.

A car and a private bus were completely gutted after they caught fire following a head-on collision, at Shantapur Cross in Surpur taluk of Yadgir district on Friday. The accident resulted in deaths of nine members of a family from Sirwar in Raichur district. DH PHOTO

Superintendent of Police Pruthvik Shankar, citing eye-witness accounts, said, "A total of 10 people, five children among them, were travelling in the car at the time of the accident.

They were returning home after visiting Venugopala Swamy temple in Surpur. The accident occurred when Krishna Nayak, who was driving the car, lost control of the vehicle following a tyre burst and crashed into the private bus head-on.

The impact of the crash was such that both the vehicles caught fire instantly. Three occupants, including Krishna Nayak and Sharanappa, were burnt alive in the car," the SP said. All 20 passengers in the Kalaburagi-bound bus escaped unhurt, he said.

The Surpur police have registered a case and investigation is underway.

Ensure no eligible voter is left out, progressive groups urge CEO

BENGALURU, DHNS: A delegation of progressive organisations and a coalition of secular parties has urged the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Karnataka to ensure that no eligible citizen is disenfranchised during the voter list revision process.

The delegation, which met with the CEO on Friday, expressed grave concerns over the Systemic Identification and Registration (SIR) process, labelling it anti-constitutional and detrimental to democracy. They alleged that the process unfairly targets marginalised communities and treats ordinary citizens with suspicion.

The coalition, led by activists including J M Veerasangaiah, Badagalapura Nagendra, K L Ashok and B T Lalitha Naik, submitted a memorandum highlighting the potential for mass disenfranchisement.

"SIR is a revision method that violates Election Commission rules. It is conducted in haste and pushes the common man into a corner. Women, tribals, Dalits, minorities, and the poor across all castes are at risk of losing their right to vote due to technicalities," the delegation stated.

The CEO has reportedly taken note of the memorandum and assured the delegation that the sanctity of the electoral roll would be maintained.

Bill on women's quota defeated in Lok Sabha

Delimitation, from Page 1

Replying to the debate, a combative Home Minister Amit Shah said the Opposition was playing "ruthless politics" and accused them of trying to stop a move to increase the seats for the SC and ST communities.

He also accused the Opposition of being opposed to every move of the government as well as any move brought in for the welfare of women. "They were opposed to Shah Bano, they were opposed to triple talaq and now this move to expedite the women's reservation," Shah said.

The Opposition objected to the Bill accusing the government of discriminating against southern, north-eastern and smaller states in delimitation and demanded delinking women's quota with the exercise with Rahul claiming in Lok Sabha that it is aimed at rewriting India's electoral map.

The Bill sought to increase the number of Lok Sabha seats from 550 to 850 for an early implementation of women quota, but its defeat has pushed its implementation to 2034 LS polls. The 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023', which it wanted to amend, stipulates a delimitation of seats after a Census conducted after its coming into force for which a notification was issued on Thursday only.

The day saw speculation about the government bringing an official amendment to the Bill to provide a legal guarantee for 50% increase in Lok Sabha seats but eventually it did not happen though Home Minister Amit Shah, while replying to the debate, said that he could bring it in one hour, after the Opposition asked whether he would bring such a change in the draft law.

Hours before the Bill was taken up for passage, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to "all MPs" to "please reflect upon your conscience, remembering the women in your own families" while voting on the draft legislation and said the legislation to ensure women's quota in legislative bodies is a significant opportunity to do justice to women.

"Please do not deprive our Nari Shakti of new opportunities. If this amendment is passed unanimously, it will further empower the women of our country and strengthen our democracy. Let us come together today to create history. Let us ensure that the women of India, who are half of the nation's population, receive their rightful due," he posted on 'X'.

At the debate that saw acrimonious exchanges, senior Congress MP K C Venugopal asked Shah whether he was willing to bring an amendment to assure 50% increase and whether they will delink delimitation from the implementation of women's quota. Shah shot back saying he was ready for moving an amendment but refused to delinking saying, the Congress' intention is to delay it further.

At one point, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said, "Even if the BJP gives in writing that they will have a woman Prime Minister, we can still not rely on them."

"If anyone hears this discussion carefully, one will realise that nobody opposed the constitutional amendment for women's reservation. Everyone said 'we welcome this move'. But all the members of the I.N.D.I.A group clearly opposed women's reservation," he said.

From student leader to murder convict: Vinay Kulkarni's political journey hits a roadblock

SRINIDHI R
DHARWAD, DHNS

Born into a political family, it was almost natural for Vinay Kulkarni to enter public life. In a short span, he rose through the ranks to occupy several key positions in the Congress party.

However, just as he appeared poised to emerge as a prominent Lingayat leader, his conviction in the murder of BJP leader Yogeshgouda Goudar has come as a bolt from the blue.

Political observers say Kulkarni's career has now hit a major roadblock.

On Friday, a special court dealing with cases involving elected representatives sentenced Kulkarni and 15 others to life imprisonment.

Kulkarni's grandfather M K Kulkarni was also an MLA and an influential Lingayat leader, at a time when the community had distanced itself from the Congress following the party's ill-treatment of former chief minister Veerendra Patil.

Vinay Kulkarni entered politics during his college days, actively participating in student elections and quickly emerging as a student leader.

His proximity to senior political figures and strong connect with youth helped him rise to become president of the Congress youth wing - an important stepping stone in his political journey.

He entered electoral politics by winning the zilla panchayat seat from Nigadi constituency as Congress candidate.

Vinay Kulkarni.

His initial attempt to secure a Congress ticket from Dharwad Rural constituency was unsuccessful. Undeterred, he contested as an independent and won comfortably. He soon rejoined the Congress.

Leveraging his strong rural base, Kulkarni earned a second opportunity to contest on a Congress ticket, though he lost during the wave in favour of B S Yediyurappa. He bounced back in 2013, winning the same constituency by defeating BJP's Seema Masuti who was sitting MLA.

Ahead of the general elections the following year, the Congress high command asked him to contest from the Dharwad parliamentary constituency against Pralhad Joshi. Though initially reluctant, Kulkarni entered the fray at the insistence of then chief minister Siddaramaiah, but lost the election.

Despite the defeat, he was inducted into the Cabinet and given the Mines and Geology portfolio, along with the responsibility as Dharwad district in-charge minister.

His rift with BJP's ZP member Yogeshgouda Goudar from Hebballi constituency started with a heated argument during a KDP meeting. Days later, Goudar was brutally murdered at Uday Gym in Saptapur of Dharwad on June 15, 2016 morning. Yogeesh's wife, Mallamma, publicly accused Kulkarni of masterminding the murder.

The case was initially handed over to the CID, which gave Kulkarni a clean chit. However, after the collapse of the Congress-JD(S) coalition government, the BJP government transferred the case to the CBI. Kulkarni was subsequently arrested and lodged in Hindalga jail.

Although the Supreme Court later granted him bail, he was barred from entering Dharwad district for a period. Undeterred, Kulkarni remaining away from his constituency contested 2023 assembly election and won the seat with his wife Shivaleela campaigning on his behalf.

However, three years later, the special court dealing with cases against elected representatives convicted him in the murder case and sentenced him to life imprisonment - dealing a severe blow to his political future. He faces imminent disqualification as MLA unless the high court reverses the special court's verdict.

Kulkarni's career has seen dramatic highs and lows, but this verdict casts a long shadow over his political prospects, observe political analysts.

Vinay Kulkarni sentenced to life...

Vinay Kulkarni, from Page 1

Under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a legislator is disqualified if convicted and sentenced to imprisonment of two years or more. The Assembly Speaker is expected to issue a notification of disqualification.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had named Vinay Kulkarni in the second additional charge sheet for the offences under IPC sections 120B, 143, 147, 148, 302, and under Section 25 read with Sections 3, 5, 8, and 29 of the Arms Act. The special court had acquitted Vinay Kulkarni and another accused, Chandrashekar Indi, for the offences under the Arms Act for want of prosecution sanction.

'Cold-blooded murder'

The special court said being an MLA as well as district in-charge minister, the acts of Vinay Kulkarni is nothing but a disgrace to the society who had reposed faith in him by getting him elected. The court also observed that the murder was an accidental act instead of a pre-determined and cold-blooded one.

"The conduct of accused no 15 in committing such an offence, being a people's representative, will send a wrong message to society that the persons in power can do anything," the court observed.

The other convicts to undergo life imprisonment for murder and criminal conspiracy are Vikram Bellary, Kirthi Kumar Basavaraj Kurahatti, Sandeep Saudatti, Vinayaka Katagi, Mahabaleshwar Hongal alias Muduka, Santhosh Saudatti, Dinesh M, Ashwath, Sunil, Nazeer Ahmed, Shahanawaz, Nuthan, Harshith, Chandrashekar Indi and Vikas Kalburgi for murder and criminal conspiracy. The court acquitted Vasudeva Rama Nilekani and Somashekar Basappa Nyamagouda on the benefit of doubt.

The special court further sentenced Inspector Channakeshava B Tingarikar to rigorous imprisonment to seven years for the offence under IPC section 218 (knowingly frames an incorrect record with the intent to save any person from legal punishment).

Two accused persons - Basavaraja Muttagi and Shivanand Shrishaila Biradar - had turned approvers in the case. While Basavaraja Muttagi supported the prosecution's case, Shivanand Biradar turned hostile during the trial.

In its order, the special court confirmed the pardon granted to Basavaraja Muttagi while granting liberty to the prosecution to file an application seeking sanction to prosecute Shivanand Biradar.

"Acting under section 340 of CrPC, the Registrar of City Civil Court is hereby directed to register a case of perjury against the Police Officers Shivananda Chalavadi, Babu Katagi, Shankaragouda Basanagouda Patil and other independent witnesses Dr Dattatreya Gudaganti, Anand Irappa Uddannavar, Vinayaka Binjiyavar, Mohan Echarappa Mulmuttal, Vivekananda Dalawai, Natraj Sarj Desai and Vijay Kulkarni for tendering false evidence before the court," the special court said.

Yogeesh Goudar was murdered at his gym in Dharwad by hired assailants. His family alleged that he had received death threats. The local police initially arrested six people.

The CBI case was that Vinay Kulkarni was the main conspirator in the murder of Yogeesh Goudar. Vinay Kulkarni, who was the district in-charge minister at the relevant time, did not want Yogeesh Goudar to grow as a leader in Dharwad.

BJP plays martyr, blames 'anti-women' Oppn

Analysis, from Page 1

Shah took a more combative line against the Opposition vis a vis PM Narendra Modi who was more conciliatory on Thursday.

In the run-up to the debate, arguments, for and against the proposed law, coalesced into two competing political frames created by the NDA and Opposition. The BJP and its allies sought to project the three Bills as an attempt by the Modi government to empower women by early implementation of the women's quota in the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies.

The Opposition countered this position by building an alternative narrative, alleging, the women's quota Bill was a decoy to pass the delimitation laws to redraw India's electoral map for 2029 Lok Sabha polls.

This position was first articulated by former Congress president Sonia Gandhi in a signed article. By seeking a "politically equitable" distribution of seats, Sonia voiced the concerns of the southern states which have actively managed population growth in the last four decades and are apprehensive of losing out to the heartland provinces if the delimitation is based on population growth.

Sonia also tried to bring on board the Mandal parties, by demanding the 2027 census and the concomitant caste count be factored in for gerrymandering. Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party, with 37 MPs in the Lok Sabha has been demanding quota within quota for backward classes to join the chorus. The treasury benches attempted to dilute an aggressive DMK stand against the Bill by getting public endorsement from another CM from the south Indian state, TDP leader and Andhra Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu.

In the run-up to the three-day Parliament session, the biggest concern for the Opposition remained whether 28 TMC MPs, currently busy with campaigning, would be able to attend the house and participate in voting. Mamata Banerjee's support was crucial for the Opposition to muster more than one-third members required to defeat the bill.

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's blunt message in the Opposition meeting in Delhi on Tuesday that abstention from voting would mean indirectly helping BJP pass the Bill galvanised the Opposition. Up against BJP and NDA allies in their respective states where campaigning is already underway, the TMC and DMK could ill afford to have been seen indirectly siding with the BJP.

Akhilesh Yadav too, who faces elections against BJP's Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh next year, sharpened his attack on the Modi government.

The clinching argument that galvanised the Opposition ranks was apprehension that the I.N.D.I.A bloc would be at a disadvantage if the delimitation of Lok Sabha seats were done in a way that suited NDA and its allies.

Just before the House met on Wednesday, a senior Congress manager said, "The Bill by the BJP is for 2029 LS polls. We will not allow its passage."

Till Thursday late night and Friday early morning, government managers tried to explore options with back channel and un-official talks with the Opposition, but the ship had already sailed.

The I.N.D.I.A bloc wanted that an assurance of 50% increase in Lok Sabha seats in each state be made part of the Bill and 2027 Census data be used for the next delimitation exercise. Short of the halfway mark in the current Lok Sabha, the defeat of the Bills also underscores BJP's dependence on its allies to muster simple majority for ordinary legislation and a broader consensus across political spectrum for Bills that require special two-thirds majority.

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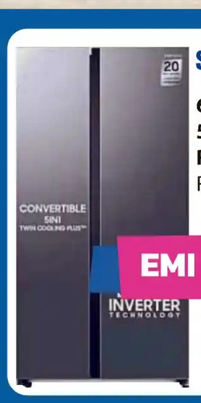

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Action against Muslim leaders: I'm being blamed, but acted on party's directives: DKS

Jarkiholi urges KPCC chief to reinstate Abdul Jabbar

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee working president Satish Jarkiholi calls on the party's state unit chief D K Shivakumar at the latter's residence to discuss recent developments in the party, in Bengaluru on Friday.

Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Congress president D K Shivakumar on Friday defended the disciplinary action initiated against the party's Muslim leaders, clarifying that it was done upon the directions of the top brass.

Shivakumar was speaking after a meeting with Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi. They discussed the Congress' recent decision to suspend MLC Abdul Jabbar for "anti-party" activities and the sacking of another MLC Naseer Ahmed as the chief minister's political secretary.

Jabbar and Ahmed have been accused of conspiring to defeat the party in the April 9 Davangere South bypoll.

"There's nothing personal about this. They (Jabbar and Ahmed) are our leaders. But the party has its own reports. Without Delhi's permission and direction, we can't take such action. We have to act under their guidance," Shivakumar said.

"People may blame me, but I'm not worried. All must work together by following the party's discipline," Shivakumar said.

Asked about the Congress being seen as targeting its Dalit and minority leaders, Shivakumar said: "The entire Congress party stands on SC, ST, minorities, OBCs, farmers...Congress is there to give justice to all sections of the society."

Satish said he met Shivakumar to do "damage control" following a narrative that the Congress was targeting Muslims after Valmikis. Satish is a Valmiki (ST) himself. He was referring to actions against Jabbar and Ahmed as well as the sacking of K N Rajanna (a Valmiki) from the Cabinet last year.

"I told (Shivakumar) that Jabbar must be reinstated. He said a notice will be issued to Jabbar, his explanation sought and then discuss it with the party top brass," Satish said. "We must take (Jabbar) back. Dalits and minorities are our voters," he added.

'D'gere South seat doesn't belong to any particular community'

Deputy CM Shivakumar asserted that the Davangere South Assembly seat does not belong to any particular community, including the Muslims, reports DHNS from New Delhi.

He credited the late minister Shamanur Shivashankarappa with nurturing and protecting the constituency as a traditional Congress bastion. Acknowledging that the Muslim community has a sizable population in the segment and had sought a ticket for one of its leaders, Shivakumar said there was nothing wrong in their demand.

"After discussions with prominent Muslim leaders and with their consent, the Congress decided to field Samarth Shamanur as its candidate for the bypoll," he told reporters here.

Responding to questions about discontent among Muslims over disciplinary action taken against some community leaders for anti-party activities in Davangere South segment bypoll, the deputy chief minister said the Congress government had extended maximum benefits to the Muslim community during its rule.

He also dismissed allegations of the party targeting Muslim leaders, stating that the Congress has never targeted any particular community.

On speculation about the possible resignation of Minorities Affairs Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, Shivakumar said, "I don't know. I only read about it in the newspapers."

When asked why he left the Cabinet meeting midway at Bengaluru on Thursday, he clarified: "The Davangere South Assembly bypoll issue was not discussed in the Cabinet. I left early as I had some urgent work to attend to."

Developments in Cong after D'gere bypoll not good, says Hariprasad

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Expressing his displeasure over the disciplinary action taken against minority community leaders for alleged anti-party activities during the Davangere South bypoll, senior Congress MLC B K Hariprasad said on Friday that the KPCC should follow due procedure before taking action against anyone.

"Whatever developments are taking place in the party after the Davangere (South) bypoll are not good for the party," Hariprasad told reporters here.

"There is a state Congress Disciplinary Committee, headed by former Rajya Sabha deputy chairman A R Rehman Khan. If any member is found to be involved in anti-party activities, the matter should be referred to the committee."

"The committee will do its duty by seeking an explanation from the members concerned and then recommending appropriate action. The Karnataka unit should have followed this process," Hariprasad said.

Clarification sought

"There are even discussions on social media about possible action against the senior leader and Minority Affairs Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan. He is a senior leader and enjoys immense popularity among the minority communities.

"Some vested interests are spreading rumours about Zameer Ahmed's resignation. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah must clarify whether any action is being taken against Zameer. By issuing a clarification, the chief minister can put an end to the ongoing debate on social media," Hariprasad said.

Hariprasad, who is also in charge of Haryana Congress, said that in Haryana too, the party took action against a few MLAs. "That was done only after following the proper procedure, and it took one month," he added.

Following complaints of anti-party activities during the Davangere bypoll, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has sacked his Political Secretary Naseer Ahmed, and the Congress state unit suspended MLC Abdul Jabbar from the party's primary membership.

Harsh Gupta's transfer creates a stir on social media

BENGALURU, DHNS: The recent transfer of senior IAS officer Harsh Gupta from the post of principal secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department, has created a stir on social media. Gupta has not been given new posting. This is his 30th transfer in his 26-year career.

Recently, the chief secretary had issued instructions that no officer will be transferred without offering new positions.

Social media is abuzz with comments. Kuchchangi Prasanna, an author, wrote on social media, "In 26 years of service, IAS officer Harsh Gupta has been transferred 30 times. He brought in revolutionary doctor transfer systems in the health department, also introduced the practise of counselling in the department. He has been transferred without a new posting."

Calling him an honest officer, many questioned if this was the fate of an honest IAS officer and criticised the government for his repeated transfers.

K'taka keen to partner with world on tech, trade & innovation: CM

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah takes part in the 'Bridge to Bengaluru 2026 – Dialogue with Diplomats' meet, organised by the Government of Karnataka, in New Delhi on Friday. His Cabinet colleagues Priyank Kharge, D K Shivakumar and M B Patil are seen. PHOTO: PTI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday said that Karnataka is ready to partner with the world—not just in technology, but across trade, innovation, and people-to-people collaboration.

He was addressing the 'Bridge to Bengaluru 2026 – Dialogue with Diplomats' organised by the Government of Karnataka here.

The event also served as a curtain raiser to the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2026, scheduled from November 17–19, 2026, in Bangalore. The CM also pointed out that the 'Beyond Bengaluru' initiative aimed at expanding innovation clusters to Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

Siddaramaiah said Karnataka is targeting a $20-billion quantum economy under its Quantum Vision 2035, aligned with India's National Quantum Mission.

He also pointed to the state's early move in the AVGC-XR segment, noting it introduced a dedicated policy in 2017 and is now implementing its third policy for 2024-2029.

The state has set a target of becoming a $1-trillion economy by 2032, driven by technology, talent and innovation, while maintaining a focus on inclusive growth, he said.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, Minister for Large and Medium Industries M B Patil, and IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge, along with other senior government officials and global industry leaders, took part in the event.

"Karnataka is not looking for passive partnerships—we are looking for co-creators to build long-term, outcome-driven innovation collaborations," Priyank said.

The event brought together Ambassadors, High Commissioners, and senior diplomatic representatives from over 80 countries, including 45+ Ambassadors and High Commissioners, a statement said.

Diplomatic representatives from key partner countries, including Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Denmark, Bhutan, France, Egypt, Malaysia, Japan, and Germany, participated in the dialogue.

Rajanna rues Siddaramaiah's 'helplessness', slams DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS

Senior Congress lawmaker K N Rajanna on Friday publicly rebuked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for having become 'helpless' and not standing by his loyalists who have faced action within the party.

"People are saying that Siddaramaiah's supporters are being targeted," Rajanna, counted among the CM's confidants, told reporters.

"People who are loyal to Congress and want the party to grow and do good work are facing conspiracies. We expect the CM to stand strong during such circumstances. He's not doing that and we're disappointed," Rajanna said.

Rajanna, the Madhugiri MLA who belongs to the Valmiki (ST) community and is one of Siddaramaiah's confidants, was sacked from the Cabinet last year ostensibly for criticising Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'vote chori' campaign. Before and after his sacking, Rajanna has remained a vocal critic of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

"I don't know what (Siddaramaiah) has on his mind. I don't know what compulsions he has. We didn't expect such helplessness from the CM," Rajanna said.

Asked who rendered Siddaramaiah helpless, Rajanna said: "I won't say who. You can make your guess."

Recent disciplinary actions against Congress MLCs Naseer Ahmed (he was sacked as the CM's political secretary) and Abdul Jabbar (he has been suspended from the party) have rocked the state's politics. Both of them are Siddaramaiah's men and are accused of trying to sabotage the party's election effort in the April 9 Davangere South bypoll. The developments have also created the notion that Shivakumar is gaining the upper hand in his one-upmanship with Siddaramaiah.

Rajanna asked why Shivakumar was 'getting away' without action. He repeated his argument that Shivakumar attending 'Sadhguru' Jaggi Vasudev's event - despite the spiritual guru mocking Rahul Gandhi - amounted to indiscipline.

"Our AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge asked if taking a dip in the Ganga during the Maha Kumbh would end poverty in the country. After that, you (Shivakumar) go and take a dip. It's okay to be religious. But you complimented (Uttar Pradesh CM) Yogi Adityanath for good arrangements," Rajanna said.

Rajanna also pointed to Shivakumar attending the wedding of billionnaire businessman Mukesh Ambani's son even as Rahul Gandhi turned down the invitation.

"Forging friendships with enemies...the party must observe these things," Rajanna said.

Leopard enters house in Mysuru; rescued within hours

MYSURU, DHNS

The leopard rescued by the Forest department from a house at Siddhartha Layout in Mysuru on Friday morning. It was hiding beneath a cot on which a woman was sleeping.

A leopard strayed into a house, creating panic among people, at Siddhartha Layout in the city on Friday morning. However, the big cat did not attack the residents of the house and was found hiding under a cot in the bedroom, until the Forest department personnel rescued it.

It is said that the leopard entered the house of one Suresh, while his wife Sujatha and his mother Shylaja were still inside the house. It was rescued by the Forest department within two hours of its sighting.

Speaking to *DH*, Deputy Conservator of Forests (wildlife division)-Mysuru I B Prabhu Gowda said, "Learning about the leopard at the house in Siddhartha Layout, the Forest department officers of Mysuru division, and Leopard Task Force members rushed to the spot. After confirming that the leopard was inside the house, we launched the rescue operation. With the help of veterinarians, the three-year-old male leopard was tranquilised and rescued. It has been shifted to the wildlife rehabilitation centre in Koorgalli. It has not suffered any injury and is healthy. Its health is being further monitored."

According to Sujatha, the leopard might have entered the house, when they had kept the main door open for 10 minutes in the morning. "We were not aware of the leopard in the house. It had entered the bedroom, where my mother-in-law Shylaja was sleeping. Unaware of the uninvited guest, I went to the room and gave her medicine, while the leopard was still under the cot. Later, the maid sighted the animal and alerted us. We locked it and informed the Forest department," she said.

It is suspected that the leopard might have strayed into Siddhartha Layout from Chamundi Hill, nearby.

Centre to finalise wildlife vision plan

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will hold a national workshop as it moves closer to finalising the Wildlife Vision Plan as part of the Centre's Vikasit Bharat@2047 mission.

The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) was told that preparation of the plan was underway. "A national workshop for this has been proposed in New Delhi, which can also be culminated with the next meeting of SCNBWL," the committee was briefed.

The initiative involves predicting habitat needs, coordinating between agencies, adopting landscape-level approach for conservation, high-tech surveillance and incorporation of best standards in wildlife conservation, including species recovery programmes.

REFORM IN REVERSE GEAR

Flaws stall tech-based counselling process for RFO transfers

Expected to curb political interference, ensure transparency

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

The general transfer of range forest officers (RFOs) through the transfer and counselling management system (TCMS) has hit a dead end with the minister conceding that the process has "certain technical flaws".

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, in May 2025, had assured a delegation of the Karnataka State Range Forest Officers' Association that the department would soon conduct transfers of RFOs, by a counselling process similar to that for deputy RFOs and forest watchers. However, there has been no substantial progress.

TCMS is a software-based system introduced by the department in 2022 to ensure transparent transfers without manual interference.

Based on service history, current posting, tenure completed and category of post, the system allows each officer to select a posting of choice during counselling.

This was expected to curtail political influence and the cash-for-transfer menace. So far, the department has implemented this system only for DRFOs and watchers.

'Seniors exploit loopholes'

Department sources told *DH*: "Senior officials found loopholes to manipulate the system and get their 'favourite' personnel posted at important locations or to sideline staff who did not comply with their demands".

Source said even after DRFOs were transferred through TCMS, higher officials ensured that the "right people were posted in the right positions," defeating the very purpose of the system.

Multiple RFOs working in different forest circles across Karnataka told *DH* that the non-implementation of technology-driven transfers had adversely affected their morale and led to the continuation of corrupt practices, including postings through recommendations from elected representatives and ministers.

"It is an open secret that a majority of transfers in the department are done based on recommendations from MLAs or ministers. Officers who seek such transfers become indebted and may hesitate to act against these elected representatives or their supporters in case of forest encroachments or violations," said an RFO in favour of implementing TCMS. He cited the example of zero convictions in forest land encroachment cases in Belagavi circle over the past 5 years.

While association members acknowledge that TCMS is not a magic wand to eliminate corruption and political influence in transfers, they believe it can offer officials a chance to serve with dignity.

"Currently, a majority of RFOs posted in executive roles in human-animal conflict zones are seeking non-executive posts. At the same time, some RFOs, with the backing of elected representatives, have been working in the same range for 8–10 years continuously. TCMS can break this chain," said another RFO. He said instead of fixing the flaws in the system, the government appears to be discarding it altogether.

Speaking to *DH*, Khandre said there were certain flaws in TCMS and that the government was working to rectify them.

"The proposal of transferring RFOs through TCMS is currently before the Cabinet. A decision will be taken soon," he said.

"While the top brass of the forest department is in favour of TCMS, there are a few RFOs and DRFOs who either support or oppose the system. We have to address all issues and take a decision," he said.

DH Classifieds

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PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Roseline Shanthi Michael Nathan @ Roseline Shanthi R/at No. 4/1, John Armstrong Road, Richards Town, St Thomas Town Post, Bangalore North, Bengaluru-560084, declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as ROSELINE SHANTHI vide affidavit dated 16-04-2026 before notary Y.R. Chandrasekar, Bengaluru.

MORE Classifieds IN SUPPLEMENT

I, KAILAS DEVIDASRAO BENDRIKAR, S/o Devidasrao Bendrikar, Residing at: E103,1st Floor, E Block,Mera Homes,Near ShellPetrol Bunk, Seegehalli,Bengaluru-560067. Have Changed my Name KAILAS DEVIDASRAO BENDRIKAR to KAILAS DEVIDAS BENDRIKAR. In all future correspondence & transactions i will use my name as KAILAS DEVIDAS BENDRIKAR only, Vide affidavit Dated:10.04.2026 before Notary K.V.Mani,Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
We, Nitha Lakshmi S and Abhilash B.S, residing at No. 306, 3rd Floor, SSK Paradise, Chennamanakere, Kathriguppe, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560085, have changed our minor daughter's name from ANANYA A GOWDA to HITHANSHI GOWDA A vide affidavit dated 11-03-2026 before notary L. Puttaraju, Bengaluru

I, NAVYA G, residing at G31, Chitrakut Century Apartment, Sahakarnagar, Behind Blytons Restaurant, Bangalore-560092 have changed my name to NAVVYA V RANGANATHAN vide affidavit dated 16-04-2026 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore.

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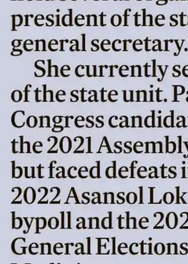
Those whose names were deleted for rightful reasons did not protest. Why does only the TMC have an issue?
Political Theatre
Students are addicted to drug abuse and time has come to put an end to it. Once the AIADMK assumes power, the sale of ganja will be completely eradicated

Poll vault

Matchbox politics



Cashing in on the West Asia energy crisis, Trinamool Congress leaders in North Bengal distributed TMC-branded matchboxes to people during home visits. The leaders said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was unable to provide LPG for households, but Mamata Banerjee was giving them matchboxes to light alternative fuels like coal and wood. However, when people countered by asking why the TMC was not providing even a few kilograms of firewood to run their kitchens, the leaders made a hasty retreat.

KALYAN RAY, NEW DELHI

Legacy drape

Women leaders of the AIADMK, especially candidates, now wear saris in the party's colours—black and red borders with white as the dominant shade. This reflects how J Jayalalithaa dressed in her early years in politics, a style many women leaders are now emulating. The distinctive design and borders have since become widely recognised.

E T B SIVAPRIYAN, CHENNAI

Meet the leader

Agnimitra Paul
BJP
Asansol Dakshin

BJP leader Agnimitra Paul, the MLA from Asansol Dakshin, is among the prominent women leaders of the party in the state.

A fashion designer before entering politics, she joined the BJP in 2019 and went on to hold several organisational posts, including president of the state Mahila Morcha and general secretary.

She currently serves as a vice president of the state unit. Paul defeated Trinamool Congress candidate Saayoni Ghosh in the 2021 Assembly elections but faced defeats in the 2022 Asansol Lok Sabha bypoll and the 2024 General Elections from Medinipur.

She has been active in raising issues related to alleged corruption, political violence and governance both inside and outside the Assembly.

Trivia

In the 1972 round of Assembly elections, allegations of rigging first came from West Bengal. This time, the allegation took the form of coercion, threat or violence by organised gangs of goondas set by the ruling party in a pre-planned manner at polling stations with the help of the polling personnel and thereby scaring away genuine voters and then marking the ballot papers by those goondas with the help of polling staff, said an EC report.

No parties in West Bengal indulged in the absurd story of chemical treatment of ballot papers and use of invisible ink, nor then, or in the Assembly elections of 1972 did any of them impute any evil motives or designs to the EC.

FLIGHT FIGHT

A vendor displays kites bearing symbols of various political parties ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections, in Kolkata on Friday. PTI

Kongu Nadu fight: AIADMK defends fortress as DMK looks to breach

TVK may also put up a fight, but its strength remains to be seen

FROM THE GROUND

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
SALEM, DHNS

Despite a 10-year anti-incumbency, the AIADMK-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) pulled off an impressive show in western Tamil Nadu — or Kongu Nadu — by winning 33 of the region's 50 seats in the 2021 Assembly polls.

It was underperformance in this region that prevented the DMK from winning Tamil Nadu by a landslide five years ago.

This April 23 election, the stakes are high for both the ruling DMK and the AIADMK-BJP, with popular actor Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) making inroads into several areas, turning the fight triangular.

For the DMK, the election is particularly significant: It has focused on the region by identifying fresh talents and bringing in a brilliant organiser like V Senthil Balaji to win people's trust.

Besides defending the citadel — where the BJP has also grown significantly, especially during the four-year tenure of K Annamalai as its state-unit chief — the NDA wants to better its 2021 tally by cashing in on anti-incumbency against the DMK regime.

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin campaigns for DMK candidates MP Saminathan and D R Indirani in Tiruppur on Friday. PTI

TAMIL NADU
Assembly Poll

The combine has put up a united show in this region, particularly with AIADMK candidates getting Annamalai to campaign for them. The NDA also has an advantage here, with its chief-ministerial candidate Edappadi K Palaniswami hailing from the region and belonging to the entrepreneurial Gounder community.

For the TVK, Vijay is the USP. An added advantage is former AIADMK veteran K A Sengottaiyan, who is now the TVK coordinator for the region. He is banking on his experience and Vijay's massive fanbase to make inroads into his former party's bastion.

The TVK is expected to do well in pockets like Tiruppur, a film-crazy town that once boasted 36 cinema theatres, and in areas where Scheduled Tribes hold the key.

The party has also been reaching out to Dalits, but one of the challenges before it is to ensure the last-mile connectivity to its vote base.

Though the DMK and the Congress won 17 seats in 2021, the alliance performed quite poorly in urban centres — winning only one seat in Salem and none in Coimbatore.

This time, too, the fight is quite intense between the DMK and the AIADMK-BJP in almost every constituency.

The ruling party has challenged the Opposition alliance in its stronghold of Coimbatore by fielding Senthil Balaji from the industrial city.

While Balaji is confident of delivering the Karur district despite former AIADMK minister M R Vijayabaskar putting up a strong resistance in the city seat, the ruling alliance is hoping to win seats in the Salem, Erode, and Namakkal districts.

Caste plays a major role in this region, with both the DMK and the AIADMK actively wooing Gounders and Aruntha-thiyars — a sub-sect of Dalits spread across the region.

Meanwhile, the BJP feels it can perform well this time, despite facing criticism that it didn't field young leaders like Annamalai in the elections. The AIADMK demonstrated its dominance in the region by allotting the saffron party only a handful of seats in the region.

On the other side, the DMK believes its ground infrastructure overhaul in the last few years, welfare schemes targeting women, and the infrastructure push in cities like Coimbatore will help it. However, the electricity tariff hike could hurt its prospects, with the region home to several MSMEs.

Prof Ramu Manivannan, former head of the University of Madras' Department of Politics and Public Administration, told *DH* that the contest would be multi-cornered, and that the DMK was not as strong in western TN as it was in the state's North.

"The DMK will perform better than in the 2021 polls, and it is aware of the traditional strength of its prime challenger, the AIADMK. The election will be very tough for the AIADMK and the BJP. The importance accorded to Senthil Balaji certainly makes a difference for DMK," he said.

As for the TVK's impact, the professor said that, except for Sengottaiyan's manoeuvring, it remains to be seen how much TVK can make inroads into the vote banks of existing parties.

BJP abused TMC worker: Abhishek seeks EC action

KOLKATA, PTI: Senior Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee on Friday alleged that BJP supporters abused a woman party worker in the presence of her two-year-old daughter in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district.

Expressing hope that the Election Commission would take action against those involved in the "heinous attack on the woman", he said that while one person has been arrested, all those named in the FIR should be brought to book.

Abhishek Banerjee

Alleging that some CPM workers who later joined the BJP were involved in the incident targeting Sathi Gorai Kuila at Sabang, Banerjee said, "I am giving my word, after May 4, the day of counting, we will bring all those behind the incident and not arrested by police to Sathi's residence and make them apologise to her."

Daring Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his remarks that TMC workers involved in alleged attacks on BJP supporters should stay indoors on polling and counting days, Banerjee said, "I challenge Shah to stay in Kolkata on the day of counting and see the huge public response following TMC's victory."

A grieving mother fights, but shadow of betrayal lurks

CPM fields bereaved mom against TMC's dynast in Kaliganj

Alifa Ahmed

Sabina Iyasmin

FROM THE GROUND

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KALIGANJ (NADIA), DHNS

Sabina Iyasmin is out on a door-to-door campaign in Palashi — the scene of the historic 1757 battle between the British East India Company and the army of Bengal's Nawab Siraj-ud-Daula.

She pauses near Mira Balika Vidyaniketan. Tears roll down her cheeks as she meets the parents waiting in front of the girls' school for their daughters.

"My daughter would have been in the fifth grade this year," Sabina mumbles. "She wanted to study in a big school like this."

Sabina lost nine-year-old Tamanna on June 23, 2025, to a bomb hurled to celebrate the Trinamool Congress' Alifa Ahmed's landslide victory against the BJP's Ashish Ghosh in a by-election in the Kaliganj Assembly constituency in West Bengal's Nadia district. "I am fighting to get justice for my daughter as well as to ensure no other mother loses her child the way I did," Sabina tells the parents.

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

The CPM has fielded her in Kaliganj to take on Alifa, whom Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party has renominated this time.

Alifa, an engineer, quit her corporate job to contest the June 2025 bypoll, necessitated by the death of her father Nasiruddin Ahmed, who was elected to the Assembly in 2011 and 2021.

Tamanna's death, which marred Alifa's win, came less than a year after the outrage over the rape and murder of a young doctor at the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata put the ruling TMC in a tight spot and brought the focus on the state's deteriorating law-and-order situation.

The ruling party moved fast to make sure that Tamanna's death would not trigger fresh outrage. Mamata personally intervened, prodding the police into arresting several people responsible for the blast.

The investigation could not convince Tamanna's parents. They rejected offers of financial assistance from TMC leaders. With the CPM's help, they not only moved the Calcutta High Court to seek a CBI probe, but also staged protests in Kaliganj and Kolkata.

Now, as the CPM candidate, Sabina is not only citing her personal loss to highlight the alleged rise in hooliganism during the TMC's rule but also raising other issues — unemployment, closure of government schools, deteriorating roads, and lack of efforts to ensure safe drinking-water supply.

Alifa, on the other hand, is promoting the TMC government's welfare schemes, her father's legacy, and the development works she initiated after winning the by-election. But factional feud within the TMC may dampen her prospects.

The BJP has fielded Bapan Ghosh.

Mir Zafar's betrayal of Siraj-ud-Daula in 1757 altered the course of history. Two and a half centuries have passed, but treachery remains a lurking threat in Palashi.

Roshini brings identity politics to the TN fray

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Now 28 years old, S Roshini has been running an NGO for the past three years, working with people in the tribal areas of Tamil Nadu and helping youngsters with their studies.

Roshini is the only transperson in the fray in the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections: She is the Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) nominee from the prestigious Villivakkam constituency here.

Roshini is pitted against heavyweights: the DMK's Karthik Mohan, the TVK's Aadhav Arjuna, who is also the son-in-law of lottery baron Santiago Martin, and the AIADMK's S R Vijayakumar, a former MP.

Villivakkam was the largest Assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu before the redrawing of seats in 2009.

For Roshini, people-centric politics is important: She said that was why she chose to join the Seeman-led NTK, which she said was the only political party in the state that vociferously talks about climate change and the effects of global warming.

"I joined the NTK because it puts people above everything; and I have always been proud of being a Tamil. That brought me closer to Seeman," she told *DH*.

Asked about her chances in an intense contest, one where people with huge financial and human resources were challenging her, Roshini said she did not see any of them as a real threat because only the NTK was fighting for its ideology.

"Public life is not new to me, and I am not in politics for money. We are taking our ideology of self-governance to the people," she said.

On how people were receiving a transgender woman candidate, Roshini said: "People tell me I am one of their own. We are also human beings, just like them. They say transgender women can understand the problems of both men and women. I am being welcomed with love and affection."

Asked whether her candidacy would open doors for other transgender persons to take the plunge into politics, Roshini said, "If I get a chance, a lot of people like me will get opportunities. If I win, the focus will be on all people, but I will definitely work for the transgender community. I believe that transgender women are now present in every field, but they have not yet received proper recognition in politics."

Poll Digest

Congress will be 'good child' after May 4: IUML

IUML, a key constituent of the UDF in Kerala, on Friday signalled its disapproval of the Congress's internal debate over the chief ministerial candidate, saying the party would "become a good child" after the Assembly poll results on May 4, PTI reports from Malappuram.

"Let us wait till May 4. Congress will take everything into consideration and will become a good child after May 4. After that, UDF and Congress will be forced to make an appropriate decision.

"Till then, let us wait. Till then, let the discussions continue. No problem with that. There should be no arguments after May 4. There will be a good decision after that," IUML chief Sadik Ali Shihab Thangal said.

Earlier, IUML leader P M A Salam had cautioned against public discussions on the CM candidate, warning it could create discontent among workers.

DMK rules out joint campaign by Rahul, Stalin

The DMK on Friday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin will not campaign together for the April 23 polls in the state, as both have separate schedules, reports PTI.

Rahul will visit Chennai on Saturday to launch his campaign. Congress is contesting 28 seats as part of the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance (SPA).

DMK organising secretary R S Bharathi said neither leader had the time for joint campaigning due to pre-scheduled travel plans, making a combined appearance unlikely.

I-T dept searches premises of Trinamool MLA

The Income Tax Department on Friday conducted searches at two premises linked to TMC MLA Debasish Kumar, who is seeking re-election from the Rashbehari seat in south Kolkata, officials said , reports PTI.

Simultaneous searches began around 6 am at his residence on Manoharpukur Road and his election office, they added. The reason for the searches was not immediately known.

Tipra Motha sweeps council polls; BJP seats go down

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Tipra Motha, an ally of the BJP-led government in Tripura, on Friday registered a landslide victory in the Tripura Tribal Autonomous District Council (TTADC) by winning 24 out of 28 seats. The polling was conducted on April 12.

BJP, which contested the election with vigorous campaign against Tipra Motha and others, won the remaining four seats. This, however, was less than its tally of nine in the 2021 polls. The IPFT, another ally of BJP, and the Opposition Congress and CPM, drew a blank. Tipra Motha has been in power at the Council since 2021.

"It's a victory of love over hatred," Tipra Motha Chief and Tripura's royal scion, Pradyut Manikya Deb Barma, said after the results were announced on Friday afternoon.

Tipra Motha Party supporters celebrate in Agartala on Friday. PTI

Tipra Motha, led by Deb Barma, and BJP with Chief Minister Manik Saha as the leader engaged in verbal confrontation during the campaigning, blaming each other for encouraging hatred and violence.

The elections saw 83% polling.

Accepting the mandate, Saha on Friday said, "While we accept the people's mandate with humility, we see this as an opportunity to learn and come back stronger."

Important verdict

The council polls verdict is a significant push for the Tipra Motha before the Assembly elections in Tripura in 2028. It is, however, a setback for BJP, which is trying to increase its footprints among the tribals as it is widely seen as a "Bengali-party".

Tipra Motha has been demanding steps for granting land rights to the tribals and greater autonomy to the council.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Reason and ruse: Lessons from a failed bill

The Union government likely knew the fate of the legislation package it introduced, purportedly to implement the Women's Reservation Bill of 2023, even before it convened a special parliamentary session to pass it. The bills, including one on a Constitutional amendment, lacked the requisite support in the Lok Sabha as most Opposition parties were against the linking of women's reservation with the population census and delimitation of constituencies. The Bill was defeated as it failed to secure a two-thirds majority, and would be remembered as a farcical exercise aimed at gaining political advantage from the optics surrounding women's reservation, ahead of Assembly elections in two states. Prime Minister Narendra Modi indicated the government's thinking when he said the Opposition parties would not be forgiven by women in the country if they defeated the Bill.

The debate in the House provided no credible justification for the controversial provisions that would increase the number of Lok Sabha seats as part of the proposed delimitation exercise. The uneven increase in the number of seats would have diminished the political relevance of South Indian states and given the Northern states an undue advantage. Home Minister Amit Shah's explanations did not assuage these concerns. The 50% increase in seats that he proposed would actually have worsened the existing imbalance between states. Retaining the percentage of seats in the Lok Sabha does not help when the gap in absolute numbers widens. In a first-past-the-post system, political and legislative power is measured by the absolute number of seats, not percentages. Furthermore, the Bill provided no clarity about some of the implications of delimitation, as envisioned by the government.

The politics of delimitation, under the women's quota pretext, risked disrupting India's federal balance

The government's plan, if successful, would have dealt a serious blow to the country's federal balance, allowing states lagging in development to dominate states that promoted and efficiently implemented national policies and made stronger contributions to the country's growth. It would have disrupted India's democratic structures, ironically, in the name of promoting a powerful democratic idea – increasing women's representation in parliament. What was defeated on Friday was an attempt to legitimise a dangerous and iniquitous delimitation of constituencies, pitched as a principled move to ensure women's reservation. Unfortunately, a cause of such importance was used to push a political agenda. While this failed attempt should serve as a warning, the nation should guard against the proposal's return in other forms.

SC on SIR: Too little, too late

The Supreme Court's order on April 13, enabling people whose names were deleted from the electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) to vote in the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections, is welcome, but has a limited impact as a corrective measure. This late intervention allows those voters whose names are cleared by the appellate tribunals till two days before the polling date to vote. Nineteen tribunals are set up to hear appeals by 34 lakh applicants whose names were removed for "logical discrepancies," a category created for people whose details, such as spellings of names, are different from the 2002 rolls. This was, as the Court observed last week, a deviation from the SIR process in Bihar, and denied voting rights to lakhs of people. Though the Court had criticised the Election Commission of India (ECI) over this approach, it had refused to allow the aggrieved persons to vote, saying their petition was "premature."

It has maintained this technical position by stating that people whose appeals remain pending before the appellate tribunals would not be allowed to vote. But the Court invoked its powers under Article 142 and directed the ECI to publish "supplementary lists" of voters who won their appeals till two days before polling dates (April 23 and 29) in the two-phase election, and allow them to vote. The tribunals started functioning only on April 13; it is unclear how many appeals they can hear before the polling days. Late revision of the electoral rolls may complicate preparations that typically start at least five days ahead of polling day. Implementation of the new order would require roll updates and reviews till almost the election eve. Additionally, people whose names are cleared by the tribunals need to be informed of their voting status. These are logistical challenges that add a layer of uncertainty.

West Bengal's excluded voters find partial relief, but the order still cannot fix mass disenfranchisement

Even if the electoral machinery is up to the challenge, a large number of voters will still be unable to exercise their right. The Court, during the hearing, had observed that the right to be on the electoral roll is both constitutional and sentimental. But the West Bengal experience shows that procedures can be altered in such a way that the right can be denied. Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee has welcomed the Supreme Court order, claiming it as a victory. It is a partial victory in terms of principle, but its outcome will hinge on the system's readiness and efficiency to implement it on the ground.

HEGEMON'S ORDER

Trump as a prophet of doom

America's aggressive rhetoric on Iran reflects a familiar imperial overreach that ignores civilisational depth

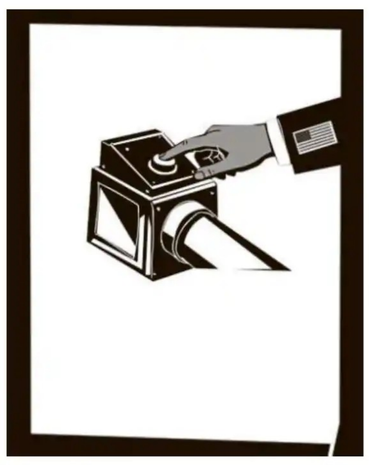
PRASENJIT CHOWDHURY

Hearing President Donald Trump's warning to Iran during a prime-time national address—that he intended to bomb the country with enough force to send "them back to the Stone Ages where they belong"—reminds one of America's flair for such apocalyptic metaphors on another historic occasion. In Pakistan, which hosted the highest-level face-to-face meeting between the United States and Iran since Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, the Bush administration threatened to bomb Pakistan "back to the Stone Age" after the 9/11 terror attacks if then-President General Pervez Musharraf did not cooperate with America's war against Afghanistan.

That Iran's First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Aref dismissed Trump's aggressive posture asserting the enduring nature of the Iranian state by highlighting Iran's deep historical roots ("Iran is not a mere 'incident' in history, but history itself") at variance with Trump's stark provocation ("A whole civilisation will die tonight, never to be brought back again") earlier is beside the point. What is important is that America's expansionism vis-à-vis Iraq and Afghanistan earlier, and Iran currently, once again finds it guilty of transgressing the great seats of ancient civilisations.

Aref's claim that Iran is history itself is not misplaced. The history of the area now known as Iran, but often still referred to as Persia, spans millennia, boasting a rich and complex artistic and cultural legacy. It is one of the most dynamic areas of Islamic civilisation, as it was home to the world's first powerful empire (led by Cyrus the Great during the Achaemenid dynasty) that influenced a vast portion of Central Asia, including Armenia, Georgia, and India. The Persian empire surpassed in size any previous polity in the region: the Great King's writ ran from central Asia to Libya and from the western shores of the Black Sea to the banks of the Indus. Even if Trump doesn't like this bit of history, he must learn to chew on this.

The Strait of Hormuz was historically a venue for adversaries to access and threaten Iranian coasts. The Portuguese attack on the Island of Hormuz in 1507 and the British occupation of Bushehr port in 1856 are two occasions that have been emphasised in Iranian strategic thinking to argue about the potential vulnerabilities that can occur from ignoring the Strait. Trump seeking to force open the Strait rekindles the age-old demons. What is worse, it exposes American vandalism that has wreaked untold havoc on civilisations time and again.



Regarding Trump's call for extinction, civilisations such as Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Cretan, Classical, Byzantine, Middle American, and Andean have vanished over time. But the interaction of the civilisations that have remained – Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Islamic, Western – with one another, as much as with their own environments, has been among the most important drivers of historical change. In a six-week assault on Iraq's civilians and infrastructure in 1991, called "Desert Storm," grain silos and public water-treatment plants in the country were targeted. What is most reprehensible is the extensive use of depleted uranium missiles, intensive use of cluster bombs, fuel-air bombs, napalm, cruise missiles, and so-called "smart bombs." The Dutch Laka Foundation estimates that this particular US terror campaign left behind 300-800 tons of radioactive waste from the depleted uranium ammunition all over Kuwait and Iraq – poisoning air, land, water and people.

"Sacralisation of war"

It becomes a civilisational irony how an eminently rich and barbarian state ends up fuelling nuclear proliferation, as between 1945 and 1992, the US conducted 1,054 nuclear tests and two nuclear attacks. In November 1997, Bill Clinton issued a Presidential Decision Directive which declared that nuclear weapons would remain central to US defence policy and that Washington has the right to target nuclear rivals and prospective nuclear states that might threaten US interests. In March 2000, then-Deputy Secretary of Defence John Hamre said: "Nuclear weapons are still the foundation of a superpower... and that will never change."

In March 2002, a copy of the Pentagon's revised Nuclear Posture Review, leaked to the *Los Angeles Times*, revealed the US's contingency plans to use nuclear weapons against China, Russia, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Syria, and Libya.

We are often told that Western/Christian and Muslim/Arab civilisations are on the verge of destroying each other. But the global reach of US military power is increasingly equated with a pervasive ethos of imperial arrogance, with a distorted vision of national exceptionalism and Manifest Destiny. This has led to a valorisation of warrior politics, merging with what Barbara Ehrenreich calls the "sacralisation of war," where society converts the act of killing into a sacred duty, similar to ancient blood sacrifices – a "burst of nationalist religiosity" in which foreign populations are faceless, dehumanised, and demonised.

Currently, the US is a global economic predator, sustaining itself through an increasingly fragile system of "tribute taking." Having lost the ability to harness its own economic gain with the economic advancement of other societies, a weakened US frequently resorts to more desperate and aggressive actions to retain its hegemonic position; these actions inevitably point to the disintegration of the American empire. Trump is acting as a prophet of doom in presiding over this.

(The writer is a Kolkata-based commentator on geopolitics, development and culture)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Breaking the algorithm

As the miles passed, my neat classifications gave way to surprising connections

SAHANA PRASAD

'A group tour? Ah, no planning on food, transport etcetera. Just enjoy! But how would the other group members be? Friendly? Sour? Cynical? Or gregarious and outgoing who enjoyed every minute, joked and spread cheer?' the mind meandered.

On the day of departure, I scanned through the other members, unconsciously classifying them into neat little categories, like a human version of a sorting algorithm.

"Ah yes," I thought, "the serious uncle, the overly enthusiastic aunty who would probably probe into everyone's personal details, the silent observer, and—oh no—the potential complainer." I mentally prepared myself for dramatic sighs, arguments over window seats, and someone inevitably asking, "Is this included in the package?" every 10 minutes.

But as it turns out, my internal classification system deserved to be thrown out of the bus window. The "serious uncle"? Within an hour, he was cracking the funniest dad jokes, keeping the group warm, in spite of the cold outside.

The "overly enthusiastic aunty"? She turned out to be an introvert, burying her nose in her mobile, earphones always on and showing zero interest in her co-passengers.

The "silent observer"? It turned out he was just conserving energy. By day two, he transformed into a walking Wikipedia—history, geography, random trivia—you name it. Need to know when the monument was built? Want to know what the locals eat for breakfast? Just say the word!

We also had a honeymooning couple, who I initially assumed would exist in their own romantic bubble, oblivious to the rest of us. They held hands, the husband adjusted his wife's necklace and held her bag and accessories, clicked her pictures, got her breakfast and looked cute together.

But soon enough, they were helping everyone take pictures, offering to click group shots, holding the elders' hands while climbing steps. Romance and maturity blended well.

And then there was the five-year-old. I had braced myself for tantrums, random crying, and emergency snack breaks every fifteen minutes. Instead, this tiny human was the most disciplined among all of us. Always on time, always cheerful, and somehow more patient than the adults. He proved worthy of the Japan visit, polite, silent and a perfect gentleman in the crowd!

And the "potential complainer"? Uh, where was this person? He was chivalrously offering his seat, fetching tea to the elderly and humming while dinner was served late. Of course, there were people who kept completely to themselves and people who knew everything about everyone!

By the end of the trip, we knew who snored, who overpacked, who woke up at 5 am for no reason, and who needed to visit the washroom often and who shopped the most.

So, group tours aren't just about not worrying about logistics. They are about realising that the people you least expect can end up making the journey unforgettable. And my brain's first impressions? About as reliable as a GPS in a no-network area!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIR confusion: Eligible voters may be left out

Apropos 'People cleared till 2 days before Bengal polls can vote: SC on SIR' (Apr 17), the Supreme Court used its extraordinary power to order additions/deletions of names in West Bengal's already frozen voters' lists, as adjudicated by appellate tribunals at least two days before the polling dates, demonstrating the SIR's highly complex and problematic nature in the state, as well as its rushed and unscientific implementation. The tribunals – located in Kolkata – began operating only a few days ago. Given the short time frame and massive pile-up of paperwork, it is likely that many eligible voters would be deprived of their voting right this time. The polling process would thus be marred by widespread disorder and confusion, reducing the democratic exercise to shambles.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

Sustainability solutions

I refer to 'Bengaluru's crisis response: A blueprint for energy self-reliance' (Apr 17). In Bengaluru, autorickshaw drivers switching to electric rickshaws and the Hoteliers' Association joining hands with GBA for biogas, against the backdrop of LPG shortages triggered by the West Asia war, is a positive step. The conflict has starkly exposed India's overdependence on the import of fossil fuels, endangering its energy security. Accelerating adoption of EVs and decentralised biogas plants can reduce import bills, lower pressure on forex reserves, and insulate the economy from geopolitical volatility. Importantly, biogas production using organic waste also solves mounting urban waste disposal challenges. Bengaluru's proactive shift shows how crises can catalyse sustainable transitions, making the country more resilient, self-reliant, and environmentally secure for the long term.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

What's the real motive?

This refers to 'Delimitation: Govt, Oppn face-off likely' (Apr 16). In convening a three-day special parliamentary session to seek passage of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, in the midst of Assembly elections, the BJP-led government appears to have its own agenda. First, the timing of the move seems a blatant attempt to project BJP as pro-women. Second, the clubbing of two disparate issues—delimitation of constituencies and the women's reservation bill—is questionable. Naturally, the southern states stand to lose, with their population remaining more or less stable, compared to the northern states, which have registered exponential growth, enabling them to have more Lok Sabha seats.

T V Pandarinath Naidu, Kudige

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Rahul Gandhi was talking about a magician and other things, and then he spoke about the armed forces and Balakot. I can't call him a joker or magician, but he was acting like one who was in a theatre and not Parliament.

Giriraj Singh, Union Minister

It's not at all hard to understand a person; it's only hard to listen without bias.

Criss Jami

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

The right to sleep and turn off

Sleep deprivation is a growing public health and economic crisis. Change must begin with personal discipline

ANANTHAPADMANABHAN

Findings from the 2026 Resmed Global Sleep Survey show a strange contradiction. We live in an era committed to living longer and staying healthy, yet most of us are failing at the most basic requirement: a good night's rest. While over half of us say sleep is as important as diet and exercise, 53% of people globally struggle to get quality sleep.

History warns us that the price of this exhaustion is often paid in blood and environmental ruin. In 1989, the Exxon Valdez supertanker ran aground, spilling millions of litres of crude oil because a weary officer fell asleep at the helm. This disaster was not a lone event; it was the result of a workplace culture that ignored sleep deprivation. Today, researchers suggest that nearly 13% of all workplace accidents are caused by this same lack of rest.

When we cannot find rest at work, we try to fix it at home. This has led to the "sleep divorce," where many couples choose to sleep in separate beds or rooms. Interestingly, India is leading this trend. We are now the second most sleep-deprived nation on earth, and only 47% of Indian couples share a bed every night.

It is not just about snoring anymore. The biggest irritant is "digital friction"—the blue light from a partner's smartphone keeping the other person awake. Modern real estate now features "dual main bedrooms," so both partners can get undisturbed deep sleep. This stage of rest is not merely a break; it is the time when our brains process memories and manage our emotions. Without it, we become reactive, irritable, and intellectually dimmed.

If we do not sleep at home, the cost shows up at the office. Recently, a staggering 92% of Indian workers admitted to taking a "snooze day" – using sick leave just to catch up on sleep. This situation is more than just an HR challenge; it is an economic disaster. Data suggests that lost productivity and sleep-related health issues cost the Indian economy severely. This burden hits women even harder, as they often handle a "second shift" of housework, leading to much higher rates of sleep difficulty than men.

Beyond the balance sheet, researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, have measured the biological cost of this loss. Their studies demonstrate that sleep-deprived individuals exhibit a 40% impairment in the brain's ability to form new memories. This effectively "shuts down" the hippocampus – the brain's primary memory centre. Furthermore, they found that chronic sleep loss triggers a "social withdrawal" effect. Sleep-starved participants felt lonelier and less inclined to engage with others, suggesting that a tired workforce is fundamentally less collaborative.

The biological 'cleaning crew'

The evidence from science is clear: our brains need "down time." Doctors have found that during sleep, the brain uses a "cleaning crew" called the glymphatic system to wash away toxins. When we do not sleep, this waste builds up.

Chronic sleep loss is not just about being grumpy; it is a long-term threat to our brain health and even our basic kindness. Studies show that lack of sleep makes us less generous, deactivating the parts of the brain that help us be helpful to others.

The solution is not just better pillows; it is better laws. The Right to Disconnect Bill, recently reintroduced in the Rajya Sabha, is a major step forward. It argues that being "always-on" is a national health concern. Following the lead of countries like France and Australia, this law would give employees the right to ignore work emails after hours.

However, the true shift must come from the individual. Many of us suffer from a "fear of missing out" that keeps our brains in a state of high alert. Legislation can permit us to unplug, but we are the ones who need to pull the plug. It requires personal discipline to value our own silence over the noise of a digital notification.

Society needs to change how we live and work. Some Indian startups have already started "Right to Nap" policies, and global companies like Google and Nike are using sleep pods because they know a rested brain works better. Urban planners must also play their part by designing quieter apartments with better natural light.

Sleep is not a luxury for the few; it is a fundamental biological right that sustains our economy, our safety, and our collective humanity.

(The author is an independent writer)

India's diplomatic outreach since Feb 28

- **Feb 28:** Iran seeks India's permission for three of its ships to dock in the region
- **March 1:** The Cabinet Committee on Security reviews the situation. Several ministries begin working together to address the travel and exam challenges faced by Indians
- **March 3:** India says safety of Indians in the region was its 'utmost priority'; on trade and energy supply chains disruption, it was "firmly opposed to attacks on merchant shipping". The PM and MEA hold discussions with UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan and Israel leaders
- **March 4:** A US submarine torpedoes Iranian Navy frigate IRIS Dena, which was on its way to Iran after participating in an India-hosted naval exercise; at least 87 sailors were killed. Another Iranian vessel, IRIS Lavan, docked at Kochi
- **March 9:** EAM S Jaishankar makes a suo motu statement in the Rajya Sabha; informs that two Indians were killed, and one was missing in an attack on a merchant vessel
- **March 11:** India condemns attack on Mayuree Naree, an India-bound commercial vessel
- **March 12:** PM Narendra Modi holds a telephone conversation with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian
- **March 24:** Jaishankar meets Iran's ambassador to India, Mohammad Fathali, in New Delhi
- **April 2:** Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri represents India at a meeting convened by the UK Foreign Secretary on the West Asia crisis. Over 60 countries attend it
- **April 8:** India welcomes the two-week ceasefire between the US and Iran, following negotiations in Islamabad, Pakistan
- **April 15:** Modi and US President Donald Trump discuss the situation in West Asia and stress the 'importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and secure'

A policy tightrope in West Asia

SANJAY BHATTACHARYYA

The United States and Israel's war on Iran had been in the making for almost a year. But when conflict erupted, it broke every rule in the book — and the global community, including India, responded with guarded restraint.

Reactions were shaped not by traditional norms but by asymmetries of power, fragmentation in regional and global affairs, the breakdown of a rules-based order, and the disruption of customary channels of communication.

Concerns mounted that the ideological gap and strategic mistrust between the US-Israel bloc and Iran could destabilise geopolitics and the global economy. Oman's mediation on the nuclear issue and the Gulf states' warnings to the US about likely retaliation failed to prevent the war. As costs escalated, an off-ramp brokered by Türkiye, Egypt, and Pakistan produced a temporary ceasefire.

The guarded, nuanced, and muted response carried signals of frustration with rogue behaviour by the belligerents. Gulf states, hit by Iran's retaliation, took the matter to the UNSC but refused to join the US war effort — privately lamenting that the US bases failed to provide protection. Europe sought de-escalation, did not join the coalition, and grew increasingly critical of Israeli leadership and legal conduct. Russia and China condemned the attacks on Iran, extended material and intelligence support, yet allowed passage of UNSC resolution.

India's response was based on an assessment of the war and its effect on its key interests. For India, relations with the US, Israel, Iran, and the Gulf region are all critical, and the West Asia region is crucial and complicated.

New Delhi's proposals for de-escalation and diplomatic negotiations are consistent with its policy. However, India has refrained from engaging directly in mediation. This approach certainly needs review as others look towards India for support, and India can add value to the table. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar are maintaining contact with counterparts and strategic partners. Similarly, communication across party lines within India is necessary to build a unified approach during crisis situations.

India joined UNSC Resolution 2817 as a co-sponsor, condemning Iranian retaliation against Gulf States. Standing with the Arab states supported their concerns, helped the Indian community in the region, and facilitated the evacuation flights. India also supported Iran and extended humanitarian medical assistance during the war.

BRICS, under India's chairship, held emergency consultations on the war, particularly since certain members were involved in the war. While it achieved a better understanding, consensus was difficult. Overall, BRICS provided hope for a negotiated settlement and argued against the expansion of the war.

The initial public posture

India's initial public posture on Iran's territorial sovereignty was described as strategic silence as New Delhi did not formally condemn the attacks, and many interpreted this as a tilt toward Israel. It prompted discussion on how far emerging powers could openly discuss legal and principled positions, even with close partners, without resorting to megaphone diplomacy. The delay in offering condolences after the assassination of Khamenei could have been avoided.

India's energy security received a jolt as it was forced to diversify energy imports, focus on strategic reserves, review renewable energy policy, and provide fiscal support to manage the adverse fallout of the conflict on the domestic economy. Emergency negotiations with Tehran to facilitate the movement of Indian ships through the Strait of Hormuz and deployment of naval escorts achieved ad hoc solutions. India may need to improve its capacity and capability for crisis management and conflict resolution in its immediate neighbourhood to gain in stature as a credible emerging power that stays the course with strategic autonomy, national interest, and global responsibility.

The ongoing crisis confirmed the dangerous trend of belligerent States resorting to force rather than diplomacy, often at huge cost to the regional and global economy. The normalisation of such trends could hasten the decline of the old rules-based order even before new mechanisms and institutions can mature to address challenges that impact the global community.

To maintain strategic stability and build an inclusive world, emerging powers such as India must be seized of such developments and trends, and engage actively to shape the dynamics of the interface between geopolitics and geoeconomics as we move towards reformed global governance.

(The writer is a former diplomat, currently professor at Jindal Global University)

A CALIBRATED RESTRAINT

On February 28, the day the US and Israel attacked Iran, the Ministry of External Affairs released a statement expressing 'deep concern' over the developments in Iran and the Gulf region. New Delhi urged 'all sides to exercise restraint, avoid escalation, and prioritise the safety of civilians', and stressed that 'sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be respected'

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

52,000
Number of Indians who flew back to India from West Asia between March 1 and 7

32,107
Indians who flew back on Indian carriers. In the initial days of the conflict, embassies in the region helped evacuate Indians mainly through Armenia, Oman and Saudi Arabia

Maritime movement through Hormuz
At the beginning of the conflict, there were about 28 India-flagged vessels in the Strait of Hormuz. As of April 15, at least nine vessels had reached India with much-needed fuel supplies

Quiet diplomacy hailed
While India's foreign policy has been criticised for not condemning the US and Israel for attacking Iran and for New Delhi, as BRICS Chair, failing to issue a statement, it has also come for praise for its quiet diplomacy, especially in the safe passage of fuel tankers

SOURCES: MEA, MEDIA REPORTS

AI rewriting the nuclear rulebook

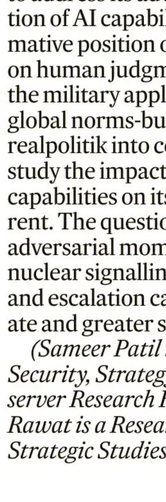
SAMEER PATIL AND RAHUL RAWAT

The ongoing US-Israel-Iran conflict symbolises the paradigmatic shift in the conduct of warfare. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) on the battlefield, first seen experimentally during the Russia-Ukraine War, has now matured to form an integral element of US and Israeli kinetic operations targeting Iran. Understanding this transition to an AI-driven battlefield is essential for all militaries, particularly for nuclear-armed states like India, which are recalibrating their strategic postures amid accelerating technological change.

In the Russia-Ukraine conflict, both sides tested AI-driven capabilities such as long-range targeting and multi-domain operations against each other. The US and Israel are now applying those lessons to a more critical and consequential theatre of Iran. The deployment of AI tools to expedite decision-making by automating elements of drone systems, satellite imagery analysis, target identification and battle simulations demonstrates this shift. Platforms like Project Maven, the Microsoft-led Integrated Visual Augmentation System, Claude LLM, and Amazon Web Services have become integral to US military planning and campaign execution.

The most consequential change is the compression of the sensor-to-shooter loop, reducing the time between intelligence collection and strike execution. This marks a change in the tempo and scale of warfare, and questions the scope of human judgment and accountability.

The implications of this shift reverberate beyond the immediate battlefield. AI's role in military decision-making could reshape the dynamics of both vertical and horizontal escalation among warring parties in ways that are difficult to control or even predict. It is pertinent to remember that all AI systems carry a statistical probability of error (besides 'hallucination'), and hence any miscalculation in targeting, such as what was seen in the strike on a girls' school in Minab, Iran, carries grave implications – not just due to collateral damage but also escalation dynamics. In a potentially worst-case scenario, greater autonomy and reduced human oversight could lead the AI system to recommend high-value targets whose strike might trigger unintended responses, blurring the distinction between conventional and nuclear thresholds.



This has implications for nuclear deterrence. The risk is that not only is AI making warfare more destructive, but it is also complicating crisis management through inadvertent escalation, potential miscommunication, and therefore signalling to the adversary. For these reasons, India cannot be a mute observer of these shifts. It is the only nuclear-armed state engaged in active military disputes with two nuclear-armed neighbours that share a close defence and security bond. Both China and Pakistan are actively integrating AI into their military and nuclear architectures. For instance, China is developing AI-enabled targeting and early-warning capabilities within its NC3 architecture as part of its nuclear force modernisation, to strengthen deterrence vis-à-vis the US.

Given these developments, the Indian military must assess its nuclear posture to address its adversaries' rapid integration of AI capabilities. New Delhi's normative position on this issue, anchored on human judgment and oversight in the military application of AI, is fine for global norms-building. However, taking realpolitik into consideration, it must study the impact of AI-driven adversarial capabilities on its second-strike deterrent. The question of how AI-driven adversarial momentum affects India's nuclear signalling, response timelines, and escalation calculus needs an immediate and greater scrutiny.

(Sameer Patil is Director, Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Rahul Rawat is a Research Assistant in ORF's Strategic Studies Programme)

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Steel giants still far from green

Lack of technology and financial unviability make the production of green steel difficult for Indian companies, writes Kavitha Yarlagadda

The steel that holds up buildings, carries electricity across continents, and moves people in cars and trains is being made the same way it has been for over a century, by burning coal. A new assessment of 18 of the world's largest steelmakers, operating across 29 countries, found that no nation is genuinely prepared to change that.

The SteelWatch Corporate Scorecard evaluated companies across Asia, Europe, and the Americas, including Baosteel, Nippon Steel, POSCO, Tata Steel, ArcelorMittal, Thyssenkrupp, Cleveland Cliffs, and SSAB, and found coal dependence firmly entrenched across the sector despite long-term climate pledges these companies have publicly made.

The distance between their promises and their production floors, the report finds, is not closing. It is widening. "One of the reasons for steel industries not being transition-ready is that there hasn't been enough pressure on the industry to change when compared to other industries," said Caroline Ashley, SteelWatch Executive Director.

Tata Steel Port Talbot Steelworks plant, Wales, Britain. FILE PHOTO/ REUTERS

Climate goals only on paper

Steel is one of the world's most carbon-intensive industries, responsible for roughly a tenth of all global CO2 emissions and the technology driving most of that damage is well understood. Blast furnaces powered by coal, a nineteenth-century technology that accounts for up to 90% of the sector's total emissions, remain the dominant production method across every company the report assessed.

To arrive at its conclusions, SteelWatch evaluated firms across 21 indicators organised into five areas: how seriously they are moving away from coal, whether they are investing in cleaner alternatives, how their actual climate performance measures up, the credibility of their targets, and how transparently they report on both environmental impact and social responsibility.

The picture was the same across all five categories — an industry that has made public commitments to a cleaner future while continuing to pour money into the infrastructure of a dirtier one. "This first scorecard shows that leading steelmakers are failing to lay the foundations for near-zero-emissions production fast enough. Consistently low scores illustrate the gap between company actions and what our climate requires," said Caroline.

According to Saumya Nautiyal, Energy Finance Analyst at Institute of Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, of all barriers to producing green steel, financial constraints remain the largest. As of now, producing green steel is 20-30 per cent more expensive than conventional coal-based steel production. It is difficult for steel companies to reach consumers willing to pay extra for the product.

Prior to producing a single tonne of green steel, the whole process involves altering existing manufacturing facilities, such as electric arc furnaces, hydrogen storage, electrolysers, and renewable energy sources, requiring initial large investments.

"The issue becomes even more complicated because of limitations on resources used. Green steel production requires only a small share of high-quality iron ore available globally, forcing countries like India to import," said Saumya. The scrap steel path through an electric arc furnace faces a bottleneck due to a lack of local scrap, forcing companies to import it.

A double whammy?

Beginning 2026, Indian steel exported to the European Union will be charged for its carbon footprint based on the emissions produced in its manufacture, under the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) regulation. Since India exports about 1.5 million tonnes of steel to the European Union, the risk is huge, one that will increase further when the CBAM comes into full force in 2034.

Decarbonising steel is not a single problem to solve. The issues surrounding the decarbonisation of primary production, in which producers use coal-fired blast furnaces and raw iron ore, need to be addressed separately from secondary production, in which scrap metal is fed into electric arc furnaces. Experts say policies should account for these differences.

There is no commercially viable, Paris-aligned alternative that producers could switch to, which makes steel difficult to decarbonise. The financing mechanism faces a tricky situation, as green bonds require a steady flow of funds to support green projects that have already been tested and deemed environmentally friendly and efficient. However, the producers lack the ability to show such technology.

The locking-in of coal-related assets is one of the barriers to the transition process. The majority of India's steel production capacity, both existing and under construction, is dependent on the coal-intensive blast furnace method. "The average life span of the blast furnace plant is 50 years; therefore, the investments made by the coal-intensive industries in the 2020s would be operational even after 2070, making it impossible for India to reach its net-zero objectives," said Saumya.

India's renewable energy sources are insufficient to meet the energy needs of energy-intensive industries. It lacks low-cost green hydrogen and high-quality iron ore, which enable the manufacturing of such products with minimal emissions, and it lacks a carbon pricing mechanism to compel companies to move in the direction Europeans want. What Indian companies do to move toward green steel largely depends on local governments.

Tata Steel and Jindal Steel find mention in the scorecard. Jindal Steel, ranked 5th, sees rising demand for certified green steel from governments and corporations as a gateway to "premium-priced contracts and greater market share in infrastructure and public-sector projects," according to its 2024-25 Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR).

Tata Steel, ranked 10th in the scorecard, discusses various green steel initiatives at its UK and Netherlands branches in its Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR). When it comes to India, it tries to leverage the Taxonomy of Green Steel, introduced by the Ministry of Steel, which classifies steel by carbon emissions and assigns star ratings.

"Unless you have a mandate by the government or law that every steel manufacturer has to go green, I don't see a shift happening towards green steel," said Saurabh Kumar, an independent expert in the energy field.

Experts say that to fast-track the development of green steel technologies, India should concentrate on brownfield development, deploying green steel technologies and leveraging existing steel production capacity. They feel that innovation should focus on reducing electrolyser costs and making iron production flexible enough to manage renewable energy intermittency.

DID YOU KNOW?

'The Last of Us' on eight legs

Alexander Bentley, a herpetologist, often leads regular tour groups through a stretch of the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador. He spots lizards, vipers and frogs, and he especially enjoys pointing out cordyceps — a parasitic fungi that kills its insect hosts and is the inspiration for the postapocalyptic franchise "The Last of Us."

But on a rainy night last August, he found something he had never seen before. After flipping a leaf to show his group some cordyceps, he poked the fungal growth — the hairy, yellowish tendril-like stalks that are usually a sign that the cordyceps has killed its host. The fungal mass suddenly moved. Bentley was shocked: Had he found a cordyceps that figured out how to force its host to move around after its tendrils had pierced through the creature's exoskeleton?

Bentley, a founder of Waska Amazonía, a conservation foundation, collected the specimen and posted his discovery to *iNaturalist*, a citizen-science platform. The site's users said that it was not a fungus, but a spider pretending to be infected by one.

The fungus the spider was mimicking was Gibellula, a genus of parasitic fungi that belongs to the same family as Cordyceps.

Users on iNaturalist helped identify the spider's group as a rarely seen genus, Taczanowskia. Bentley's colleague, David Ricardo Díaz-Guevara, an arachnid curator at the National Institute of Biodiversity in Ecuador, studied the specimen and was "stunned" to identify the spider as a new species: Taczanowskia waska.

Parasitic fungi depend on invertebrates to spread their reproductive units, known as spores. Their life cycle starts when spores land on a creature, such as a spider, and begin to grow inside it. The fungi can digest the creature's insides, interfere with its nervous system and manipulate its behaviour to facilitate spore dispersal, eventually killing the host. This is why they are compared to zombies.

ALEXA ROBLES-GIL/NYT

Eight from Kerala killed in accident at Valparai

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Eight persons, most of them teachers of a school in Malappuram district, were killed and five injured after the vehicle they were travelling in veered off the road at Valparai near Pollachi in Coimbatore on Friday.

According to the Malappuram police, the teachers of Palliparamabu Government lower primary school at Pang and some of their family members were among the passengers. They were returning from Valparai, a scenic hill station.

Identities of the deceased were not yet confirmed. Seven of the deceased were reported to be women.

The injured include two children.

Indian Army eyes tech-driven future at key biannual conference

Underlines accelerating indigenous military hardware

NEW DELHI, PTI

Top commanders of the Army carried out a comprehensive review of India's security challenges along the borders with China and Pakistan and explored ways to further bolster its combat prowess based on the lessons drawn from from Operation Sindoor.

In line with its vision of evolving into a 'Future Ready Force', the Army designated the year 2026 as the year of 'Networking and Data Centricity, the defence ministry said, a day after the commanders wrapped up their four-day deliberations in New Delhi.

The biannual Army commanders conference also focussed on operational capability requirements of the force including employment of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS).

The commanders also underlined the urgent need to accelerate capabilities for indigenous production of military hardware and strengthening self-reliance in defence to ensure long-term strategic resilience in view of disruptions in supply chains because of geopolitical upheavals.

The conference, chaired by Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, was addressed by senior functionaries in the government including the Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan, Chief of the Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and Defence Secretary R K Singh.

Technology infusion

It said the conference discussed a wide array of issues pertaining to modernisation, technology infusion in combat operations, doctrinal and training requirements besides networking and data centricity to enhance operational readiness.

The commanders also deliberated on addressing emerging security challenges.

"Based on the lessons learnt from Operation Sindoor, and in keeping with the current operational dynamics globally, senior army leadership also focussed on operational capability requirements including employment of Unmanned Aerial Systems and Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems," the defence ministry said.

It said the speakers highlighted the evolving geopolitical landscape and emerging global, regional and internal security dynamics.

"With specific reference to lessons emerging from global conflicts, the speakers alluded to the need for hard power for guaranteed protection of India's strategic and security interests while emphasising on inter ministerial coordination, enhanced synergy between civil and military institutions and a whole of nation approach for a coordinated national response to complex security challenges," it said.

"It emerged during the discussions that there is an urgent need to accelerate indigenous production capabilities, for strengthening self-reliance in defence and ensuring long-term strategic resilience in view of current supply chain crisis," it said.

HC imposes Rs 25K cost on education society for violating its own undertaking

BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has imposed a cost of Rs 25,000 upon Al-Jamia Mahamadiyah Education Society, Mumbai, and Al-Jamia Mahamadiyah Education Society, RK Hegde Nagar, Bengaluru, for abuse of process of law.

The Al-Jamia Mahamadiyah Education Society, Mumbai, along with The Al-Jamia Mahamadiyah Education Society, Bengaluru, had filed the petition seeking modification of Registration Certificate and other documents depicting their name and to issue modified certificate under Rule 7 of Karnataka Education Institutions (Classification and Registration) Rules, 1997.

On the other hand, the authorities contended that the information provided by Public Trust Registration Office, Mumbai, indicated that the Registration Certificate submitted by the institution claiming registration on April 16, 1979, is a fake certificate of registration.

It was further submitted that there is no society namely 'Jamiya Mohameddiya Education Society', registered before the competent authority at Mumbai.

The court noted that the institution in the name of Saamar International Islamic School has opened admission to the students up to class 7, stipulating the annual fee at Rs 16,500 and Rs 20,000 for High School and also, demanding Rs 12,000 for annual transportation fee from the students.

The court also pointed out that all these were contrary to the undertaking given before the high court of Karnataka court on February 2, 2026.

"The aforementioned fact is undisputed as the same was advertised in the Saalar daily newspaper and a copy of the newspaper is also enclosed. In that view of the matter, as the petitioner-institution has violated the undertaking given before this court and has started admission of students, contrary to the undertaking given before this court on 02.02.2026 and therefore, it is a clear abuse of process of law by the petitioner-institution and as such, the writ petition has to be dismissed with imposition of exemplary costs, in view of the declaration of law made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Meghmala and others," Justice E S Indiresh said.

Air India pilot sent back from US for possessing marijuana

NEW DELHI, PTI: An Air India pilot, travelling as a passenger on a flight from the national capital to San Francisco, was allegedly found in possession of marijuana and was sent back by the US authorities this week, according to sources.

"One of our crew members travelling from Delhi to San Francisco on April 14, for positioning to operate a subsequent flight, was found to be inadmissible as per local laws and has been sent back to India," an airline spokesperson said.

New SOP for trekkers makes guide, tracking app mandatory

BENGALURU, DHNS

Trekkers on trails coming under the jurisdiction of the forest department will soon have to abide by a new set of rules that seek to enforce safety, with the department also promising basic amenities.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre announced the rules under the new standard operating procedure (SOP) here on Friday.

These include mandatory presence of a nature guide per 10 trekkers, capping of maximum people per trail to 150, online registration with contact details and safety briefing.

"We will provide a guide even in cases where only one trekker has registered," the minister said.

The SOP comes in the wake of two recent incidents involving trekkers.

To ensure transparency, all trails under the forest department's jurisdiction will be available for online registration at *aranyavihaara.karnataka.gov.in*.

Khandre said all nature guides will carry a GPS-enabled walkie-talkie while a tracking app will be mandatory for all trekkers. Parents' consent will be a must for minor participants.

The department will also provide basic facilities for trekkers at the base camp. They will be briefed about the duration of the trek, difficulty and other matters, including effective ways to deal with any wild animals encountered on the way. "Separate toilets for men and women, drinking water, map of the trek route and a resting place on the way will be provided," he added.

The department will ban carrying of sharp metal objects, single-use bags, weapons and instruments causing noise. Trekkers will not be allowed to light campfires.

Nature guides will be responsible for the safety of trekkers and have to mandatorily follow the procedures. These include carrying a first-aid kit, ensuring no trekker walks ahead of them, counting heads at base camp and resting points, keeping in touch with the base camp on the walkie-talkie every 30 minutes.

At the base camp, the staff will monitor the activities and reach out to the guide in case there is no communication for one hour.

Trekking in Kudremukh. PHOTO: K G PADMANABHA

Vastu consultation turns ugly; expert, client trade accusations

BENGALURU, DHNS: A group of three, including a 47-year-old woman, allegedly created a ruckus at a private Vastu consultancy in Vijayanagar and tried to extort money.

Police said the incident occurred on April 4. The woman claimed she was a media person, while the two men posed as Delhi policemen. The trio allegedly threatened the office owner, Shantkumar, assaulted him, and warned of defamation if the money was not paid.

When his wife intervened, the accused misbehaved with her. The group then took the couple to Jayanagar and confined them. The couple managed to escape and reached the Govindaraj Nagar police station to file a complaint.

The accused also snatched Shantkumar's mobile phone, worth Rs 1 lakh.

In a counter complaint, the woman accused Shantkumar of blackmail and inappropriate behaviour during a Vastu consultation.

Close aide of Nashik godman killed in accident; foul play suspected

MUMBAI, DHNS: Jitendra Shelke, a close aide and business partner of Nashik-based self-styled godman Ashok Kharat, died in a road accident on Friday, raising suspicion about foul play.

Shelke was the vice president of Shri Shivnika Sansthan, the Trust that managed the Ishanyeshwar Mahadev temple that Kharat founded at Mirgaon in Nashik. The incident occurred near Dhotre village when he was travelling from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar to the temple town of Shirdi in Ahilyanagar district. The car rammed a parked container-truck on the Samruddhi Corridor, which connects Nagpur to Mumbai.

Shelke's wife and son, who were also in the car, sustained serious injuries and are undergoing treatment.

It is not yet clear whether the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Nashik police or the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had questioned him during the course of the probe involving Kharat, whose videos have gone viral on social media platforms.

Opposition parties, social activists and whistle-blowers are suspecting foul play and all have demanded a thorough probe into the incident. They have also asked for Kharat's security during police and judicial custody.

Sharad Pawar-led NCP(SP) MLA Rohit Pawar said one could not help but suspect whether this accident was orchestrated to stop Kharat's misdeeds from coming to light.

Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT)'s deputy leader Sushma Andhare said the incident was shocking. "The suspicion expressed by many that Kharat could face an encounter is now being highlighted even more prominently on this account," she said.

Veteran activist Anjali Damania said that Shelke was in the No. 2 position at Shivnika Sansthan. Whistle-blower Vijay Kumbhar described the incident as a darker turn in the case.

KARNATAKA STATE KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD
Khadi Bhavan, No.10, Jasma Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-52
No.KB/General-01/88/2025-26/2026-27 Date:16.04.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)
Tender No :- (KSKVIB/2026-27/IND0002)
The Karnataka State Khadi and Village Industries Board has Invited Tender from eligible bidders to submit e-tenders through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal to provide Supplying And Installation of Retractable Shelving Unit and Record Keeping Polypropylene Corrugated Box and Installation and Deployment of E-transformation Solution Last date for submission of Tenders is **30-04-2026 up to 17.00 hours.** For further details visit Website: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
DIPR/CP/221/KAVITA/2026-27

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U04010KA2002SGC030438)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)
BESCOM invites tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for availing service of Vehicles for commutation of Officers and O&M service stations of BESCOM for a period of two years.

Sl. No.	Description	Enquiry No.
1	Availing service of Vehicles for commutation of Officers of BESCOM for a period of two years	BESCOM/2025-26/ SE0252 Call-6 to BESCOM/2025-26/ SE0260 Call-6
2	Availing service of Vehicles for O&M Service stations of BESCOM for a period of two years	BESCOM/2025-26/ SE0261 Call-6 to BESCOM/2025-26/ SE0269 Call-6

Bid Documents available: **18.04.2026 onwards.** Last date for Bid Submission: **04.05.2026, 17:00 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document: **05.05.2026, 17:15 Hrs.** The Tender can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Aspiring Bidders need to register on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with Karnataka Public Procurement Portal help desk contact numbers **(+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001)** or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**
Sd/- Chief General Manager, Ele., Procurement, BESCOM, 2nd Floor, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 001.
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-2420810
IFT No.03/2026-27 Dt.13.04.2026
ITEM WISE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for a work approved under H/A: 5054-80-190-0-01-132- KRDCL-Capital Expenditure 01 works & 4059-80-051-0-60-423 CMIDP TSP 01 works under this division with KW- 3 & 4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems. The **Minimum Amount Put to Tender is Rs.59.98 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.1.20 Lakhs.** The **Maximum Amount Put to Tender is Rs.120.56 Lakhs and EMD amount is Rs.2.00 Lakhs.** Pre bid Meeting will be held in the under signed office at 11.00 A.M on 16.04.2026 Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 13.04.2026 to 21.04.2026 within 17.00 PM.(for Sl.No.1) and 15.04.2026 to 22.04.2026 within 17.00 PM. .(for Sl.No.1)** KPWD Class-III & Above Contractor Registered in KPP-Portal are eligible. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Public Work Department Mysuru Division, Mysuru
DIPR/DDMYS/65/KSMCA/49/2026-27

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕಾವೇರಿ ಭವನ, ಕೆ.ಜಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560009
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಬೆಂಜಮಂ/76/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17.04.2026
ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಮಂಡಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ವೇಯರ್ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಹುದ್ದೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ / ಸೇವಾರ್ಹತೆ
1	ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ	01	1. ಕ.ಆ.ಸೇ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯಾಗಿ ವಯೋನಿವೃತ್ತಿ / ಸ್ವಯಂ ನಿವೃತ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು. 2. 70 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನ ಒಳಗಿನವರಾಗಿರಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಆರೋಗ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಸದೃಢರಾಗಿರಬೇಕು.
2	ಸರ್ವೇಯರ್	03	1. ಸನ್ನದು ಹೊಂದಿದ (Licensed) ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ / ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸರ್ವೇಯರ್ ಆಗಿ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿ ವಯೋನಿವೃತ್ತಿ / ಸ್ವಯಂ ನಿವೃತ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿರಬೇಕು. 2. 70 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನ ಒಳಗಿನವರಾಗಿರಬೇಕು ಮತ್ತು ಆರೋಗ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಸದೃಢರಾಗಿರಬೇಕು.

ಮಂಡಳಿಯು ವಿಧಿಸುವ ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಬದ್ಧರಾಗಿ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ನೌಕರರು / ನಿವೃತ್ತ ನೌಕರರು ತಮ್ಮ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ವಿವರ, ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವ ವಿವರ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಿಂಚಣಿ ಪುಸ್ತಕದ ನಕಲು ಪ್ರತಿಯ ವಿವರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ "ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ನವೀನ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್.&ಡಿ.), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, 3ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕಾವೇರಿ ಭವನ, ಕೆ.ಜಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು" ಇವರಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಹಾಜರಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 24.04.2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಈ ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಇನ್ನಿತರ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯದ ವೇಳೆ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಜಲ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿಎ/236/2026-27

PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, KOPPAL
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jawahar Road, Koppal - 583 231,
E-mail : eepredkpl@gmail.com
No. : E.E./P.R.E.D./D.N./KPL/D.B./TENDER/2026-27/140 Date : 16-04-2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, **Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal,** invites item rates tender through kppp one / two cover systems, from eligible PWD and PRE Department registered contractors through Standard Bid Document KW - 1, 2, 3 & 4, under head of account 2025-26 **CMIDP & Other heads in Different Talukas of Koppal District.** This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka. For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate online by entering into KPPP Portal. **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal.
1) Construction of CC Drain to Masjid to Morarji Residential School at Kudrimoti Village in Kukanoor Taluk. CALL-2. INDENT NO: 20963, APT Rs. 111.09 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 167000.00 period-6 Months.
1) Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal From : 21-04-2026 time after 10.00 AM upto 30-04-2026 time 16.00 Hours. 2) Tender Receipt Last Dates From : 21-04-2026 Time 11.00 AM upto 30-04-2026 Time 16.30 hrs. 3) Technical Bid Open Date and Time (Both Technical & Financial Bids are Opened as same Date for KW 1 & KW 2 , KW-3 Works : 02-05-2026 in Office hours. 4) Financial Bid Open Date and Time : For KW 4 After getting Technical approval from competent authority, bid will be opened.
General instructions : 1) Contractors participate in all tenders online only. 2) Pre-qualification documents should be Uploaded by Scanning all Certificates & Other Concerned Documents Online only. 3) Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in Eproc-portal. For more information, contractors need to consult to below Signed Official, Oficer, contractors may get the information by going through. **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal. This notified works can be downloaded in **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal .
Note: The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject any of the tenders at any stage without assigning the reasons .
Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/39/Manipal/2026-27

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat Shivamogga
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Divison, Sagara.
No.: EE/PRE/DS/S.S.Sagara/KW-2&3/AE/JE/2026-27/
Date: 16.04.2026
Tender Notice (Through "K.P.P.P.")
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Divison, Sagara invites Itemwar e-Tender subject to KW-2&3 (Standard Tender Document) Rules from eligible, contractors registered in Public Works Department and Registered in "K.P.P.P." Institution for the works under Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Project (C.M.I.D.P.),
1. Date for downloading Tender Form from 17.04.2026 to 23.04.2026 **2.** Last date to submit Tender Form: 23.04.2026, 17.00 Hrs. **3.** Date of opening bid: 24.04.2026, 17.00 Hrs.
1. GENERAL Category Work: 24212/CALL-2, 24230/CALL-2
For details of "K.P.P.P." website tender contact the office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Sagara and can be viewed in "K.P.P.P." website (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) and can be downloaded. Further information can be obtained from the concerned case worker of this office on phone No. 08183-226064 during office hours or contact helpdesk phone No.: 080-25501216, 25501227.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Sagara
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/89/04/98

KARNATAKA STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.,
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Floor No 1, No 59, Kumara Park West Extension, Railway Parallel Road, Seshadri Puram, Bangalore 560020. Ph: +91-80-22225645 | info@keonics.com | www.keonics.in
ISO 9001 : 2008
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF PROCUREMENT CONSULTANTS
KEONICS (a Government of Karnataka Undertaking) was established in 1976 to promote rapid growth of electronics in Karnataka. Currently, KEONICS is into Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Services including ICT Goods, ICT Services, ICT Consultancy, IT Infrastructure and ICT Training. KEONICS is in the process of strengthening and transforming its procurement cell to align with emerging technologies and evolving industry requirements. KEONICS is recruiting Procurement Consultants on contract basis for a period of One (1) year. Remuneration shall be as per industry standards.

Sl. No.	Designation & Number of Posts	Minimum Educational Qualification	Minimum Experience
1	Procurement Consultant (02 post)	• B.Sc/ BE/ B.Tech/ M. Tech/ MCA/ MBA/ M Com. • Degree/ Diploma/ Certification in Public Procurement.	• 10 Years of total experience. • 5 years of public procurement experience in Govt Department/ PSU • Knowledge of the KTPP Acts, Rules and Karnataka e-Procurement Portal. • Detailed job description can be found in **www.keonics.com**

Eligible candidates for the above positions are invited to submit their applications via email to the Managing Director, KEONICS by **04th May, 2026**. Applications should include a detailed curriculum vitae, self-attested copies of qualifications and relevant proof of experience. Applicants are requested to send their signed application in PDF format to **info@keonics.com**. The detailed Job Description and Terms of Reference can be downloaded from the KEONICS portal **https://www.keonics.in**
DIPR/CP/227/SA/2026-27
Sd/- Managing Director, KEONICS, Bengaluru

DELIMITATION ROW: Cong leader says bills meant to cut representation, not empower women

'You're not India': Rahul doubles down on attack

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Friday took on the Narendra Modi government over the delimitation bills, claiming they are aimed at altering the country's electoral map by taking away representation for southern, northeastern and smaller states, while keeping OBCs, Dalits, tribals and minorities away from power.

Participating in the debate on the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, and two linked bills, Rahul said that the move has nothing to do with women's empowerment, as claimed by the government, but is instead designed to retain power by reducing the representation of certain states and sections of people.

"This is something else. This is an attempt to change the electoral map of India — using and hiding behind India's women. It is a shameful act, because instead of giving women reservation, which is very easy to do and every Opposition member would support right now, you are delaying it," he said, promising to support its implementation if the 2023 law is brought back.

Calling the bills a "panic reaction" by the ruling BJP despite knowing it does not have the numbers, he claimed they are being pushed because the prime minister wanted to send out two messages at any cost — to change the electoral map of India and to project himself again as pro-women.

"I want to assure my friends, brothers, and sisters across the country — southern states, smaller states and northeastern states — do not worry. We are not going to allow them to attack the Union of India. They will not dare to touch your representation," he said.

In a 47-minute speech that began on a cordial note but was later interrupted by BJP MPs after his attacks on PM Modi, the Congress leader said the entire Opposition would defeat the government's attempt to deny people power and representation.

Rahul faced uproar from the treasury benches over his attack on the PM, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh calling his remarks, which were expunged, "unfortunate", noting that Modi was made PM by the people. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju alleged that Rahul had insulted the people of India.

Rahul retorted, "There is a fundamental confusion in the minds of the BJP leadership. They think they are India. They are not India. They also think they are the armed forces. They are not. They are a political organisation. We are not attacking the people of India or the armed forces — we are attacking you. Stop hiding behind them and come and debate."

He alleged that the BJP has already redrawn the political map of Assam and Jammu & Kashmir, and is now attempting to do the same across India.

"You are telling southern states, northeastern states and smaller states that, to remain in power, you will reduce their representation. The entire Opposition will defeat this attempt," he said.

THE CHARGES

- Rahul says delimitation bills aimed at cutting representation for southern, northeastern & smaller states
- OBCs, Dalits, minorities kept away from power
- Govt using women's empowerment as cover to retain power
- PM wants to alter electoral map & project himself as pro-women

BJP MPs raise slogans after the bills were defeated during the special session of Parliament in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju speaks in the Lok Sabha on Friday. PTI

Leader of the Opposition in the LS Rahul Gandhi speaks in the House on Friday. PTI

Opposition against SCs, STs: Shah on latest 'census data & caste count' demand

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while defending the women's reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha on Friday, accused the Opposition of working against the interests of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), who he said would benefit from the increase of seats in the Lower House of Parliament and state Assemblies.

"In a way, those opposing delimitation are also opposing the increase in SC and ST seats," he said in response to the Opposition's demands that the 2027 Census data and caste count be used for the delimitation of constituencies.

Responding to the two-day debate to amend the proposed laws for women's quota amendment and the setting up of a delimitation commission, Shah argued that the periodic delimitation, as mandated in the Constitution, allowed for an increase in SC and ST seats in proportion to their growing population.

He said that the delimitation was aimed at rationalising the constituencies, especially those where the voter population had crossed 20 lakh.

"At some places, 45 lakh voters have one representative, and at some places, 6 lakh voters have one representative. As a result, the value of each vote is not equal across constituencies," he said.

Shah also dismissed the Opposition's allegations that the Bill on women's reservation would delay caste enumeration during the ongoing census.

"These three Bills are disguised as if they are in support of reservation for women, constitute the single greatest assault on federal structure."
Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, DMK MP

"The Bill would ensure that women can become partners in decision-making and realise their dreams."
Hema Malini, BJP MP

"Today is a historic day- the united Opposition resoundingly defeated the illegal & ill-thought out Constitutional Amendment Bill brought in the guise of a Women's Reservation Bill."
Mahua Moitra, TMC MP

Oppn throws '16' at BJP

NEW DELHI, DHNS: What does the number 16 have to do with the Modi government?

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday ended his speech during the debate on the delimitation bills with what he called a "nice puzzle" for which he sought answers.

Concluding his speech in the Lok Sabha, he said, "I am going to give you and everybody else a nice puzzle. People of India can try and see whether they can solve it. Yesterday, I saw the Prime Minister speak — low on energy, disconnected, broken."

Rahul added that Modi was unable to engage because the government knew that trying to pass the bill was a mistake, as it was a "panic reaction".

He said he then noticed the date was April 16 and realised that the number 16 was significant. "The whole answer to the riddle lies in the number 16. Everything is in that number. If anyone understands what I am saying, send me a message — tell me on Twitter. The answer to your questions will soon be revealed in this number," he said.

Soon after, the Congress posted a portion of his video on its official handle, adding, "Sixteen sounds a lot like Epstein, doesn't it?"

Rahul did not mention controversial sex offender Geoffrey Epstein either in his speech or in his posts following the speech.

The Congress leader's attempt to accuse Modi of coming under pressure from US President Donald Trump due to the Epstein Files was disallowed by Speaker Om Birla during the Budget Session.

BJP chose not to deliver on women's quota Bill: Stalin

CHENNAI, DHNS: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday said DMK supports the Women's Reservation Bill but termed the Centre's convening of a special session in the midst of the Assembly elections as "optics" and not intent.

He said the special session was convened over two and a half years after the Women's Reservation Bill was passed in 2023, only to confirm that it could not be implemented without a Census and delimitation.

"We want the Women's Reservation Bill to be implemented now. Tamil Nadu was among the earliest to implement reservation for women in local bodies," he said, adding that the DMK's concern was with delimitation, which requires careful thought to ensure it is fair, especially for southern states.

"We asked for consultation, clarity and consensus. At the very least, the Bill could have been delinked and implemented. The NDA could have delinked it. They chose not to. They could have used this time to consult states on delimitation. They chose not to. They could have addressed these concerns in the Bill. They chose not to," he added.

Telugu leaders slam Centre

The dramatic defeat of the constitutional amendment bills in Parliament on Friday sent ripples across the political spectrum in both the Telugu states, with leaders from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh trading blame and demanding accountability, reports DHNS from Hyderabad.

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy hailed the outcome as a victory for democratic forces, crediting Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for rallying the Opposition against delimitation.

Meanwhile, in Andhra Pradesh, YSRCP chief Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy turned his fire on the very parties now claiming credit for blocking the Bill. "Opposing parties should seriously ask themselves what they have achieved... Justice is rendered neither to the South nor the women!" he said.

'Anti-women' Oppn to soon face BJP salvo

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The BJP will now launch a nationwide campaign to convey the message that the Opposition is anti-women, with several party MPs staging a protest at Parliament's Makar Dwar minutes after the constitutional bills were defeated. NDA leaders, led by JP Nadda, huddled to chalk out the future course of action.

BJP president Nitin Nabin said the Congress' "anti-women alliance" stood exposed.

"The PM made an attempt, and this day could have been remembered down the ages. But the Congress' anti-women alliance... ensured that what could have given them more rights was robbed," he said, adding that the party would now hit the streets. "We will tell women that the games they played with numbers will hit them back."

On why BJP introduced the amendments now, a senior minister said the party would gain politically in the short term in Tamil Nadu and Bengal, while securing a stick to attack the Opposition in the 2029 LS polls.

Harivansh re-elected as RS deputy chairman

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Harivansh was elected unopposed as the Rajya Sabha deputy Chairperson on Friday for a third consecutive term.

Harivansh was elected after a motion, moved by the Leader of the House J P Nadda and seconded by S Phangnon Konyak, to elect him as deputy chairman was adopted by a voice vote.

No Opposition candidate was fielded against the Janata Dal (United) leader after President Droupadi Murmu nominated him.

The Opposition boycotted the election and staged a walkout in protest, questioning the timing of the vote and the Central government's approach to key parliamentary appointments.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Harivansh on his role, saying it was a "recognition of experience".

Judges must rise above personal beliefs in religious matters: SC

Says free conscience gives right to freely practise religion

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday said judges must rise above personal religious beliefs and be guided by freedom of conscience and the broader constitutional framework while adjudicating matters of faith.

During the hearing of the matter related to discrimination against women at religious places, including Kerala's Sabarimala temple, and on the scope of religious freedom of multiple faiths, a nine-judge bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant said the right to freely profess, practise, and propagate religion flowed from freedom of conscience, and this freedom must first be formed before an individual can freely choose to exercise those rights.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for one of the interveners, submitted that the present reference was not confined to Hindu practices or Sabarimala but concerned the constitutional framework governing all religions, beliefs, and matters of conscience.

Justice B V Nagarathna asked, "Are you saying conscience is something larger than religion?... Can, at the instance of a non-believer, the rationality of a religious practice be gone into?"

Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah said, "You said the freedom of conscience has a very wide proposition. Are you hinting that as judges, sitting in a constitutional court, cannot equate religion and conscience for the reason that religion may be very personal to me but then when I have to judge, I have to rise above that religious consciousness to a level where I balance it with the constitutional provision and then see the larger picture."

JUSTICE AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH

"Are you hinting that as judges, sitting in a constitutional court, cannot equate religion and conscience for the reason that religion may be very personal to me but then when I have to judge, I have to rise above that religious consciousness to a level where I balance it with the constitutional provision and then see the larger picture

CJI warns new-comers against seeking AI help

NEW DELHI, PTI: Underlining the ethical obligations of the legal profession, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Friday warned the newly qualified batch of advocates-on-record (AoRs) against outsourcing legal work to artificial intelligence (AI) or other external parties.

Chief Justice Surya Kant

According to the rules framed by the Supreme Court under Article 145 of the Constitution, only advocates designated as advocate-on-record can plead for a party in the top court.

"Do not treat filing as a routine exercise. Read every brief carefully," CJI said, noting that it reflects AoRs' judgment and integrity.

Top court rejects Khera's plea to extend transit anticipatory bail

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday rejected Congress leader Pawan Khera's plea to lift the stay on the Telangana High Court's April 10 order that granted him one-week transit anticipatory bail in a case registered against him for levelling allegations of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife possessing multiple passports.

Pawan Khera

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Atul S Chandurkar also declined to consider his plea to extend the interim relief till Tuesday to enable him to approach the appropriate court in Assam.

The apex court on April 15 stayed the HC order upon hearing submissions from Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Assam government.

As senior advocate A M Singhvi urged the court to modify the previous order, the bench pointed out that Mehta's submission was that Khera had secured the relief from the HC with a fabricated document, as he produced the obverse of his Aadhaar card and the reverse of his wife's Aadhaar card to show residence in Telangana.

Singhvi said the mix-up happened as the petition was filed in a hurry. He also claimed that further documents were produced to show that Khera's wife had a residence in Telangana, and that she contested Assembly elections there.

"Am I a hardened criminal to be denied this relief?" asked Khera, seeking time till Tuesday to approach the Assam court.

On April 15, the Assam government contended that Khera's plea before the Telangana HC was an abuse of the process of law.

FIR against Rahul in dual citizenship case

LUCKNOW, PTI: The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Friday directed the registration of an FIR against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in connection with an alleged dual citizenship controversy.

The court also observed that after the registration of the FIR, the state government may seek the assistance of a central agency to investigate the matter.

The order was passed by a bench of Justice Subhash Vidyarthi on a petition filed by S Vignesh Shishir, who had challenged a January 28, 2026, order of a special MP/MLA court rejecting his plea for an FIR against Gandhi, who is also the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha.

The special court had earlier held that it was not competent to adjudicate on citizenship issues. The petitioner, a BJP worker, had sought a probe into it.

Maoist with Rs 15L bounty among 4 killed

HAZARIBAGH (JHARKHAND), PTI: Four Maoists, including one carrying a reward of Rs 15 lakh on his head, were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district on Friday, police officials said.

The encounter took place in the Khapia forest area in Keredari, following a tip-off.

"Four Maoists were killed in... 'Operation KotiNeer'. They have been identified as regional committee member Sahdeo Maho, carrying a reward of Rs 15 lakh, Ranjit Ganjhu, Zonal committee member, carrying a reward of Rs 10 lakh," IG, CRPF, Saket Kumar Singh told mediapersons.

Guj HC clears way for state to take over Asaram ashram's land

AHMEDABAD, DHNS: A division bench of the Gujarat High Court on Friday cleared the way for the state government to take over nearly 45,000 sqm of prime land allegedly encroached upon by the Asaram Ashram, run by rape convict and self-styled godman Asaram Bapu.

The prime land is located near the Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium and the Sardar Patel Sports Complex in Motera. The area is being developed into a major sports hub for hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games and making it an Olympic-ready city.

"In totality of facts and circumstances of the present case, it is evident that the petitioner trust not only violated the conditions of the orders of allotment, regularisation, orders of grants of government land, but also encroached upon a substantial area of open land surrounding the allotted lands, even the land from the riverbed (Sabarmati) for its use and illegal occupation over the period...," the division bench led by chief justice Sunita Agarwal stated while pronouncing the order.

The bench observed that the applicant was a "habitual offender", noting that he had previously encroached upon approximately 51,000 sqm of land along the Sabarmati. This was established during eviction proceedings concluded in 2009.

Bihar Cabinet expansion likely after poll results

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

The Bihar Cabinet, headed for the first time by a BJP chief minister, will be expanded after May 4, when the results of the ongoing Assembly elections are declared, sources said.

This is arguably the first time in Bihar's history that a CM and two deputies will govern the state for a few weeks. No leader from any of the NDA allies has been sworn in as a minister, even though the state can have up to 36 ministers in the 243-member Assembly.

"Most of the leaders, including BJP MPs, MLAs, MLCs and other party office-bearers, are busy campaigning for the saffron camp in neighbouring West Bengal. Once the results are declared on May 4, the Bihar Cabinet will be expanded," said a senior NDA leader privy to the Cabinet formation talks.

CM Samrat Choudhary inaugurates self-enumeration under census 2027 in Patna on Friday. PTI

Most likely, 70% of the Nitish-led team will be retained, while the remaining could be accommodated keeping in mind experience, caste equations and regional balance.

CM Samrat Choudhary is currently holding 29 portfolios, including Home, which he also handled as deputy CM in the previous Nitish regime.

The two deputy CMs, both from JD(U), are managing the remaining portfolios. Vijay Choudhary heads water resources, parliamentary affairs, education and rural development. Bijendra Yadav oversees finance, energy, social welfare and planning and development.

T'gana caste census shows OCs better off than others

HYDERABAD, DHNS: The Telangana caste census tells of an unequal story of income. Only 4.4% of Telangana's population fell within the annual income range of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.

Among Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), a mere 2.1% reported income above Rs 5 lakh.

Backward Classes (BCs) stood slightly higher at 2.9%, while General Castes (OCs) — including Muslims — held a pronounced advantage with 13.2% of such households earning above Rs 5 lakh annually.

Meanwhile, when individuals were asked whether they pay income tax, only 10.3% said yes. Just 6% of SCs and 5% of STs reported paying income tax, reflecting lower taxable incomes and underrepresentation in formal, high-earning employment sectors.

BCs fared somewhat better at 7.9%, but were still far behind OCs, where an overwhelming 23.5% were taxpayers.

Private-sector jobs

Access to professional private-sector jobs requiring higher education and skill levels was the lowest among STs at 2.8%, followed by SCs at 5.6%. BCs showed moderate representation at 6.3%, while OCs recorded a significantly higher 14.8% — twice the state average.

Tea bodies urge PM to scrap 50% auction rule

Planters in Assam and Bengal say it adds to cost burden and limits profits

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Four prominent organisations representing tea planters and producers in Assam and West Bengal have approached Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking withdrawal or modification of the directive mandating the sale of 50% of tea through public auctions.

In a memorandum to the PM, the Assam Bought Leaf Tea Manufacturers Association (ABLTMA), North Eastern Tea Association (NETA), Bharatiya Cha Parishad (BCP) and North Bengal Tea Producers Welfare Association (NBTPWA) said that compulsory sale through public auctions places tea producers at a significant disadvantage.

MEMO TO MODI

- Tea bodies complain that rule requires 50% of tea sold via public auctions
- Memo says mandate contradicts ease-of-business goals
- Producers seek freedom to choose sale mode

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with women workers at a tea garden in Dibrugarh, Assam. PTI FILE

"The auction system involves higher transaction costs and longer selling cycles compared to ex-factory sales. The cost of selling through auctions is approximately Rs 10 per kilogram, amounting to nearly 5% of the average selling price—often exceeding the net profit margins of producers," said the joint memorandum, submitted recently. It said the directive, issued under the Tea (Marketing) Control (Second Amendment) Order, 2015 and the Tea (Marketing) Control (Amendment) Order, 2024, had remained unimplemented. However, a fresh directive was issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in February this year for its enforcement.

The memorandum noted that several expert committees had examined the auction system, but none advocated mandatory auction sales. "This mandate is inconsistent with the government's policy of promoting ease of doing business. Producers should have the flexibility to choose the most efficient and viable mode of sale," it said.

North India, including Assam and West Bengal, accounts for about 83% of India's tea output, while South India contributes around 17%. Of the annual 1,350 million kg produced, North India yields nearly 1,120 million kg. The four associations from Assam and Bengal together represent nearly 60% of North India's production.

Maharashtra sex abuse case: Panel finds just 8 survivors

MUMBAI, DHNS: In a new twist to the Amravati sexual harassment case, the Maharashtra State Minorities Commission has termed claims of a large number of victims as grossly exaggerated, noting that it had found only eight victims — all Muslim.

The MSMC reported this a day after its team visited Paratwada in Amaravati on a fact-finding mission. "So far, there are eight victims and all of them are Muslim," said MSMC Chairperson Pyare Khan, rejecting claims of over 180 victims and more than 350 videos involving mainly Hindu girls. "Our team found that of these eight victims, child sexual abuse materials of two were made public," Khan added.

He said he had asked Amravati City Commissioner of Police and Amravati-Rural Superintendent of Police to ensure people did not fan communal passions in the wake of the incident. So far, the special investigation team headed by Achalpur Assistant SP Shubham Kumar has arrested eight accused persons.

MOB RULE

Protesters set a vehicle ablaze following the detention of a few locals over alleged encroachment of reserved forest land at the Runikhata range office in Chirang district of Assam on Friday. PTI

LPG demand returns to normal, says govt

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

LPG demand in the country is gradually returning to normal levels as domestic supplies ramp up and the onset of summer begins to ease household consumption, a senior government official said on Friday.

The recovery follows a period when cooking gas availability was hit by disruptions in global energy supplies caused by the ongoing war in West Asia. "Daily bookings are currently in the range of 46-50 lakh, and deliveries are normal. On April 16, about 50 lakh refill cylinders were delivered to users' doorsteps. The data suggests a gradual return to normalcy," Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, told the media. She said India has maintained stable supplies of cooking gas and transport fuels despite disruptions linked to geopolitical tensions, with the government prioritising household consumption.

Daily bookings exceeded 88 lakh last month compared to pre-crisis bookings of about 45 lakh per day. Efforts to raise domestic output by diverting petrochemical pools into LPG production led to a 40-50% rise in output, prompting restoration of some of those supplies.

TCS case: Nashik police send teams to find Nida Khan

MUMBAI, DHNS: The Nashik City Police on Friday dispatched three teams to arrest absconding Nida Khan in connection with the sexual harassment and religious conversion case at the Nashik BPO of IT major Tata Consultancy Services.

During the probe, Nida's husband was taken into custody within the jurisdiction of the Mumbra Police Station. He told police that Nida had gone to a relative's house.

However, the police team found the house locked and their phones switched off.

An earlier report said Nida's lawyer, Baba Sayyad, had debunked media reports about Nida's involvement. He even said that Nida was not in the Human Resources department and that the company's suspension letter mentioned her as a process associate.

Her family too claimed that Nida, who is expecting her first child, joined the BPO in December 2021, but as a telecaller. "If you look at the FIR, there is no mention of forced religious conversion... I don't know why she's being portrayed as the mastermind when her involvement is only mentioned in one CR... She does not work in HR," said Sayyad.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

I STILL HAVE ONE MORE CHRISTMAS GIFT TO RETURN... I GUESS I COULD DO AN ONLINE RETURN...
BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO PACK IT ALL UP MYSELF AND TAKE IT TO THE POST OFFICE AND STAND IN LINE
HONEY, WOULD YOU...
I BOUGHT IT, HONEY...YOU CAN RETURN IT

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

JUMBLE

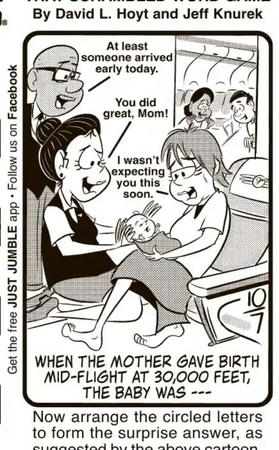
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OGTUR

VLAEE

GHRITB

TEYNNI


THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek
At least someone arrived early today.
You did great, Mom!
I wasn't expecting you this soon.
WHEN THE MOTHER GAVE BIRTH MID-FLIGHT AT 30,000 FEET, THE BABY WAS ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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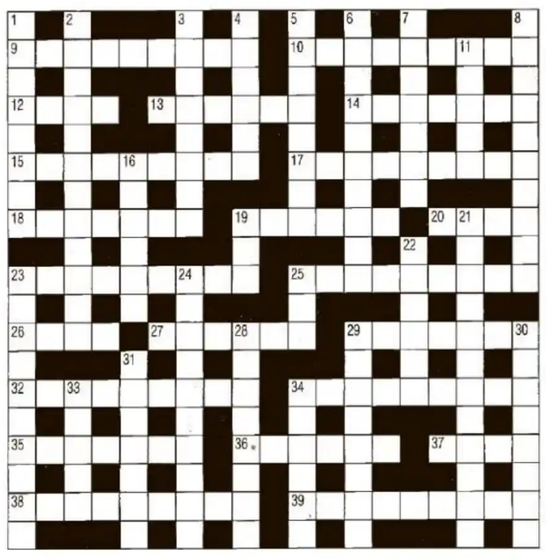
Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GOING BISON SHIFTY ZODIAC
Answer: The clumsy flying mammal that kept bumping into the cave walls was a bit of a — DINGBAT

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4036



ACROSS

9 Something temporary (9)
10 Kissing plant? (9)
12 Base of neck (4)
13 Vision (6)
14 Raise (7)
15 Affliction of the eyes (9)
17 Discouraging weapon (9)
18 Intellectual (7)
19 Self-effacing (6)
20 Long-eared mammal (4)
23 Very hot (9)
25 Person who disagrees (9)
26 Green vegetable (4)
27 Scold harshly (6)
29 Not present (7)
32 Relative significance (9)
34 Artificial sweetener (9)
35 Team sport (7)
36 Fixed goal (6)
37 Famous person (4)
38 Economic oppressor (9)
39 Attractive person (9)

DOWN

1 Open to suggestion (8)
2 Children's plaything (8,4)
3 Bonus (8)
4 Unclaimed animals (6)
5 Deeply fixed (8)
6 Lung disease (10)
7 Branch of mathematics (7)
8 Bitterness (10)
11 Slight remainder (5)
16 Make very wet (6)
19 Crockery item (3)
21 Improvement (12)
22 Tawdry art (6)
23 Amphibian (10)
24 Unfair state (10)
25 Female deer (3)
28 Opening (8)
29 Cutting tools (8)
30 Create (8)
31 Deny knowledge of (7)
33 Bizarre costume (3-2)
34 Long step (6)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS

9 Therefore, for assault could be incarcerated again (2,1,6)
10 Sea-bathing, mostly (2,3,4)
12 The fifth or sixth letter in "knowledge" (4)
13 Is, alas, preparing to attack (6)
14 Raze the apartment between nine and eleven (7)
15 The one served by the butter-fingered waitress in the tea-room? (4,5)
17 A large hall for study and lessons (9)
18 Ring through at a quarter past from work (7)
19 The guard with the money got shot (6)
20 Long to take one round the hotel (4)
23 An early lead! (5,4)
25 Takes care of, when one ushers the sailor to the door (4,5)
26 Until by myself with a book (4)
27 Gloomy when the half moon came up (6)
29 Measure the hair in need of cutting? (7)
32 Military wear is the antithesis of a baby's bonnet! (6,3)
34 A battle we need to fight (3,2,4)
35 Go on, lad. Push out the boat (7)
36 The papers he puts into groups (6)
37 The lady and the space man who's so intrepid (4)
38 Did it enable gold prospectors to see in the dark? (9)
39 Does, stupidly, clown about and you suspend activities (5,4)

DOWN

1 When I floated off, didn't (6,2)
2 "Between blonde and mouse" is not a bad description (4,2,6)
3 Was better than the other polishes? (8)
4 The way to overcome a foolish fear is to attack it (6)
5 Container nanny can't have? (5-3)
6 Does she wield the big stick over malingerers? (5,5)
7 On return, Rose Brown got through to the politician (7)
8 Regardless of which contest one's competing in? (2,3,5)
11 A commotion that gets you up (5)
16 For rises, still holds good (6)
19 The gentleman who took part in the uprising (3)
21 Pretty appealing to a child, it is! (9,3)
22 Silly rot! A man about to become a mother! (6)
23 Reduce the amount in order to create an impression (3,1,6)
24 Got loaded and became bossy (4,6)
25 A small male or a female (3)
28 Be against including it or just the converse (8)
29 What made the newlyweds so unhappy in the front seats? (5,3)
30 Cajole in order to circumvent? (3,5)
31 Mean to force Nigel to admit the old boy (7)
33 Surrounds the arenas (5)
34 Something you pull with difficulty from the tool bag? (6)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12397

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1, L-Eve-l 6, A-itch 9, Joiners 10, Bi-ze-t 11, Al-arm 12, Sam-BA 13, Pistol's 15, Vic 17, O-tis 18, Radish 19, Co-v-en 20, Stop up 22, F-U.S.-s 24, Eon 25, Sadists 26, Party 27, Skeet 28, Yea-RN 29, Toffees 30, Under 31, Steel

DOWN: 2, El-ic-it 3, (R-)Ejects 4, Lot 5, Incas 6, Arabian 7, Is-la 8, Curtis 12, Sloo-p 13, Poise 14, Simon 15, V-itus 16, Chess 18, Repay 19, Cu-RA-tor 21, Took in 22, Fi-NE-st 23, Star-VE 25, Stiff 26, Pete 28, Yes

EASY

ACROSS: 1, Tribe 6, Force 9, Rallied 10, Upper 11, Sepia 12, Boats 13, History 15, Set 17, Arch 18, Bottle 19, Bosun 20, Stream 22, Kiwi 24, Hen 25, Gleaned 26, Alley 27, Place 28, Marsh 29, Habitat 30, Grief 31, Dealt

DOWN: 2, Repair 3, Breath 4, Ear 5, Alloy 6, Festoon 7, Odes 8, Chisel 12, Broom 13, Harsh 14, Scorn 15, Stain 16, Tepid 18, Bully 19, Bay leaf 21, Teller 22, Karate 23, Weasel 25, Genie 26, Ache 28, Mad

◆SU-DO-KU-6883◆

	1	7	5				2	6
2	5		1		9			3
	8			2				7
3			6		5			4
6				1			8	
7			2		6		9	8
5	9				1	3	6	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6882

4	9	7	8	1	5	2	3	6
5	2	8	3	7	6	4	9	1
3	6	1	4	2	9	8	7	5
7	3	4	5	6	8	9	1	2
9	1	6	7	4	2	3	5	8
8	5	2	9	3	1	7	6	4
1	7	9	6	8	4	5	2	3
6	4	5	2	9	3	1	8	7
2	8	3	1	5	7	6	4	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
A1	L1	S1	R1	T1	E1	I1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 2
V4	Y4	R1	A1	I1	R1	L1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 3
Y4	L1	C3	I1	L1	D2	I1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 4
U1	U1	L1	R1	T1	C3	E1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 5
R1	S1	R1	H4	H4	A1	E1		

PAR SCORE 270-275
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

E1	R1	O1	S1	I1	V4	E1	RACK 1 =	80
P3	O1	R1	T1	L1	Y4		RACK 2 =	11
R1	O1	S1	I1	E1	S1	T1	RACK 3 =	57
S1	K5	I1	L1	L1	E1	D2	RACK 4 =	72
							JUDD'S TOTAL	220

PAR SCORE 145-155

HITORI-3337

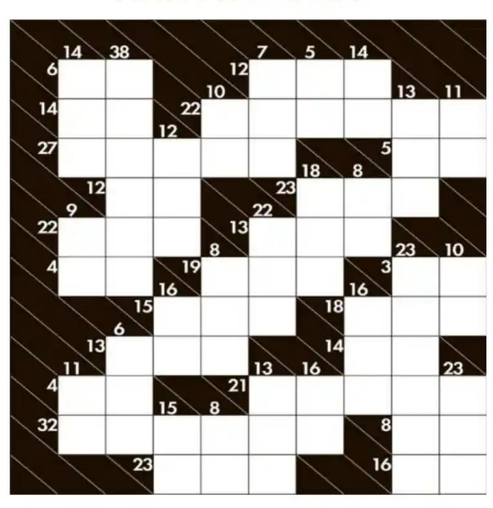
4	7	1	7	8	5	5	6
1	2	5	6	4	4	7	2
2	5	4	3	7	3	1	3
6	5	3	8	1	2	7	5
5	2	5	3	6	7	5	8
5	4	7	2	4	8	6	5
3	7	8	5	5	4	2	1
8	6	5	5	3	1	5	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

SOLUTION TO 3336

■	4	3	■	1	6	■	7
8	■	7	6	■	2	4	5
5	3	2	■	4	8	■	6
■	7	6	8	2	■	1	■
6	5	■	7	■	1	2	3
■	2	4	■	8	7	6	1
4	6	1	2	3	■	7	8
■	1	■	3	6	5	■	4

KAKURO- 3337



To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SOLUTION TO 3336

SU DO KU X - 3889

5		3	1				7	
				2				
							6	
	5				4	2		
	7		2	1	6			
	4	6			1			
1						6	3	7
	9			5				2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

SOLUTION TO 3888

9	4	5	7	1	2	3	8	6
7	2	6	4	8	3	1	5	9
8	3	1	6	5	9	2	7	4
3	6	4	5	2	1	8	9	7
5	9	2	8	3	7	4	6	1
1	8	7	9	4	6	5	2	3
6	5	8	3	9	4	7	1	2
2	7	3	1	6	8	9	4	5
4	1	9	2	7	5	6	3	8

‘Enough is enough’: Trump says Israel banned from bombing Lebanon

Says any deal the US reaches with Iran is in ‘no way subject to Lebanon’

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

US President Donald Trump said on Friday that the United States has banned Israel from further bombing in Lebanon, using an atypically harsher tone than usual with the longtime US ally Israel.

“Israel will not be bombing Lebanon any longer. They are PROHIBITED from doing so by the USA. Enough is enough!!!” Trump said in a social media post.

Trump also said any deal the United States reaches with Iran “is in no way subject to Lebanon” but the U.S. will “deal with” the militant Hezbollah situation in an appropriate manner.

The US president also said the US will get nuclear material from Iran. “No money will exchange hands in any way, shape, or form.”

Job unfinished: Israeli PM

Israel has not yet finished dealing with Hezbollah, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Friday, vowing to press on with the Lebanese militant group’s “dismantling” just hours after a 10-day ceasefire came into effect.

“Today’s Hezbollah is a shadow of its former self compared to the heyday of (Hassan) Nasrallah,” he said of the group’s leader who was killed by Israel in 2024.

“But we haven’t yet finished the job. There are things we plan to do to address the remaining rocket threat and the drone threat,” said Netanyahu.

Children gesture from a vehicle as displaced people return to their homes after a 10-day ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel went into effect, near Tyre, in Lebanon, on Friday. REUTERS

Beirut says Israeli strike in south kills one despite truce

▸ Lebanese state media said an Israeli strike on a motorcycle in the south killed one person on Friday, despite the start of a 10-day ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war, reports AFP.

The truce, announced by US President Donald Trump, went into force at midnight (Thursday 2100 GMT), seeking to end more than six weeks of war that has killed nearly 2,300 people in Lebanon and displaced more than a million. “A motorcyclist was killed in the town of Kunin, in the Bint Jbeil district, after being targeted by an enemy drone,” Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency reported.

The ceasefire agreement makes no mention of an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Second round of talks likely this weekend, says Trump

▸ President Donald Trump on Friday indicated that the second round of direct US-Iran talks could happen this weekend, reports AP.

“The Iranians want to meet,” Trump said in a brief telephone interview with the news outlet Axios. “They want to make a deal. I think a meeting will probably take place over the weekend,” he said

Over a dozen countries offer to play role in Hormuz mission, says Starmer

PARIS, REUTERS

GLOBAL CALLING

- France and Britain chaired meeting of around 50 countries
- New meeting in London next week
- Initiative does not include US or Iran for now, but diplomats say coordination needed

More than a dozen countries said on Friday they were willing to join an international mission to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz when conditions permit, Britain said, just as US President Donald Trump said he did not need allies’ help.

Some 50 countries from Europe, Asia and the Middle East joined a video conference chaired by France and Britain that followed on initial military planning and aimed to send a signal to Washington.

Iran, which said on Friday it was ready to open the strait, has largely closed it to ships other than its own since the start of US-Israeli airstrikes against it on February 28. On Monday, Washington imposed a blockade on ships entering or leaving Iranian ports.

Trump has called on other countries to help enforce the blockade and has criticised Nato allies for not doing so, but just as the Paris talks concluded, Trump said he had told Nato to stay away.

Britain, France and others say joining the blockade would amount to entering the war, but that they would be willing to help keep the strait open once there was a lasting ceasefire or the conflict ended.

French President Emmanuel Macron said the meeting had allowed them to send a united message to demand the immediate and unconditional reopening of the strait, through which around a fifth of the world’s oil and liquefied natural gas usually passes, and restoration of free passage.

“We all oppose any restriction, anything that would amount, in effect, to an attempt to privatise the strait, and obviously any toll system,” Macron told reporters.

“We will take this forward with a military plan conference in London next week where we will announce more detail on the composition of the mission, and over a dozen countries have already offered to contribute assets,” British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said.

The initiative being discussed did not, for now, include the United States or Iran, though European diplomats said any realistic mission would ultimately need to be coordinated with both.

Had a very good conversation with friend Modi: US Prez

Both leaders stress need to keep the Strait open

WASHINGTON, PTI

US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. AFP FILE

US President Donald Trump on Friday said he had a “very good conversation” with his “friend” Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He was referring to the talks the two leaders had on Tuesday.

“I had a very good talk with him, and he’s a friend of mine from India, and he’s doing great. We had a very good conversation,” Trump told reporters.

Trump had called Modi on Tuesday to discuss the bilateral relationship and share perspectives on the situation in West Asia, where the US and Israel have launched a war on Iran.

The US and Iran declared a two-week ceasefire on April 7. They engaged in peace talks with Washington, insisting that Tehran give up its pursuit of nuclear weapons and uranium enrichment.

The war with Iran has sent gas prices soaring as Tehran blocked the sea lanes in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow gateway for a fifth of global oil supplies.

During the Trump-Modi phone call on Tuesday, the two leaders stressed the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and secure.

According to the US Ambassador to India Sergei Gor, the 40-minute conversation ended with Trump telling Modi, “we all love you”.

Trump greets TS Sandhu

US President Donald Trump on Friday congratulated diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu on his appointment as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, reports PTI. “Congratulations to Taranjit Sandhu on becoming the new Lt Governor of Delhi! As a seasoned Diplomat and former Ambassador to the United States, he has always shown deep commitment to strengthening the US-India relationship,” Trump said.

Singer D4vd held on suspicion of killing a 14-year-old girl

LOS ANGELES, AP: Singer D4vd has been arrested on suspicion of killing a 14-year-old girl whose decomposed body was found last year in an apparently abandoned Tesla registered to him that was towed from the Hollywood Hills, police said Thursday.

D4vd. AFP

Los Angeles police said in a brief statement that the 20-year-old Houston-born alt-pop singer whose legal name is David Burke was being held without bail. Police said investigators would present a case to the District Attorneys Office for consideration of charges on Monday. The singer had been under investigation by an LA County grand jury looking into the death of Celeste Rivas Hernandez.

UK PM pleads ignorance over Mandelson, resists calls to quit

LONDON, REUTERS

Prime Minister Keir Starmer expressed anger on Friday over not being informed that his former ambassador to the United States had failed security vetting before being handed the job, defending himself from renewed pressure to resign.

Starmer, who won the largest majority in modern history for Labour at a national election in 2024, faces new questions over his political judgment, just three weeks before his party is expected to be punished in local elections in England, and regional votes in Scotland and Wales.

Following the sacking of Labour veteran Peter Mandelson as U.S. ambassador over his ties to the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, Starmer had managed to win a brief reprieve from his critics after limiting Britain’s role in U.S. President Donald Trump’s and Israel’s war in Iran.

Keir Starmer. AFP

However, on Thursday it emerged that Mandelson had failed the security vetting conducted before his appointment as envoy, a fact that Starmer’s team said the prime minister had been unaware of. Starmer’s political foes have questioned how a prime minister could not know and have demanded his resignation.

Starmer, who was in France on Friday for talks on the Iran crisis, told reporters it was unforgivable that he had not been told about Mandelson having failed security vetting “when I was telling parliament that due process had been followed”.

Asked if he would resign, Starmer said he would “set out the relevant facts” on Monday to parliament.

A spokesperson for Starmer told reporters the prime minister had no plans to resign.

Downing Street moved swiftly late on Thursday to try to quash the scandal, sacking the Foreign Office’s top official, Olly Robbins.

Yet his team’s argument that Starmer did not know until this week key information surrounding an appointment he had promoted in 2024 as a stroke of genius has sparked doubts over whether the prime minister has a proper grip on his government.

One Labour lawmaker, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the party was unlikely to move against Starmer for now but that the Mandelson saga was “a gift that keeps on giving” and would ensure the premier remained under scrutiny before an expected drubbing in the local elections on May 7.

Sri Lanka’s energy minister resigns on coal import issue

COLOMBO, PTI: Sri Lanka’s Minister for Power and Energy Kumara Jayakodi resigned on Friday soon after a high-powered Presidential Commission was announced to probe a state-owned entity’s coal imports for power generation.

Jayakodi, who survived a ‘No Trust’ vote last week, is the first resignation of the National People’s Power (NPP) government since it was elected in late 2024 on an anti-corruption platform.

Along with Jayakodi, Ministry’s Secretary Udayanga Hemapala too resigned from the post, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake’s office said. According to the President’s Media Division, the move is to facilitate an independent investigation by the Special Presidential Commission appointed to probe matters related to coal imports, it said.

Military activities around Taiwan are ‘justified’: China

TAIPEI, REUTERS

China’s regular military activities around Taiwan are “entirely justified and reasonable” and any tensions are the fault of the government in Taipei, the Chinese defence ministry said in a rare comment on Friday.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, sends its warships and warplanes into the waters and skies around the island on an almost daily basis, to the condemnation of the Taiwanese government.

China generally does not provide regular commentary on its daily activities near Taiwan.

Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang told reporters that Taiwan was an “inalienable part of Chinese territory”. “The People’s Liberation Army organises training and exercise activities in the waters and airspace around the Taiwan island to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity, which is entirely justified, reasonable, and a matter of course,” he said.

It was Taiwan’s ruling Democratic Progressive Party which “distorts” Chinese activities, “peddling war anxiety, intimidating the people on the island, and stoking confrontation and antagonism across the Taiwan Strait”, he added.

China refuses to speak to Taiwan President Lai Ching-te, saying he is a “separatist”. He says only Taiwan’s people can decide their future.

Speaking at a military base in southern Taiwan earlier on Friday, Lai said while everyone hoped for peace, only through strength can true peace be achieved, and reiterated a call for the opposition-dominated parliament to pass his stalled $40 billion special defence budget.

Myanmar ex-president freed, Suu Kyi’s sentence cut

YANGON, AFP: Myanmar’s former president Win Myint, detained since a 2021 military coup, was freed on Friday under a mass amnesty which, according to a source close to pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, also reduced her sentence.

Aung San Suu Kyi.

Win Myint and Suu Kyi, the 80-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate, led Myanmar during a decade-long experiment with civilian rule that was abruptly halted by the coup.

Suu Kyi remains detained, serving a sentence rights groups decry as a politically motivated move.

Nepal tightens checks on Indian vehicles in border towns

KATHMANDU, PTI: Authorities in southern Nepal have tightened checks on the entry of Indian-registered vehicles in border towns amid a rise in violations of customs rules by foreign vehicles.

Officials said stricter monitoring has become necessary due to a recent surge in unauthorised entry of Indian vehicles, raising concerns over security, tax evasion and other illegal activities.

“We have not introduced any new regulation. Rules already exist, but their enforcement has been tightened over the past week due to the growing number of unauthorised entries of foreign vehicles in the border towns of Nepal,” said Assistant Chief District Officer of Sarlahi district, Hom Prasad Ghimire.

He said it is mandatory for Indian-registered vehicles to be registered and to pay prescribed fees for movement within Nepal.

“Our concern is the increase in illegal activities and insecurity due to unauthorised entry of vehicles from across the border,” Ghimire said.

Ghimire said an all-party meeting was recently held with representatives from the Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, Nepal Communist Party, Rastriya Prajatantra Party and the Janata Samajwadi Party to discuss the issue.

Participants stressed the need for better management of foreign vehicle entry while ensuring convenience for residents, he said.

Under existing provisions, Indian vehicles are allowed to enter border areas and stay for up to 24 hours without any charges to facilitate local cross-border movement and trade.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-31032026-271462
CG-DL-E-31032026-271462

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1587] नई दिल्ली, सोमवार, मार्च 30, 2026/चैत्र 9, 1948
No. 1587] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026/CHAITRA 9, 1948

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY N.H.169A AND ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER,
KUNDAPURA SUB-DIVISION, KUNDAPURA

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of the powers under section 3D (1) and (2) of National Highways Act 1956 (48 of 1956) (herein after referred to as the said Act) With it amendment from time to time, the Central Government vide their Gazette Notification 1598(E) Dated:02/04/2025 have required the lands indicated in the schedule hereunder for widening of National Highway No:169A the stretch of land from Km.51.600 to Km.76.200 (Hebri to Parkala) and from Km. 85.200 to Km. 88.900 (Karavali Junction to Malpe) (Thirthahalli - Udupi section) on NH169A in the district of UDUPI in the state of KARNATAKA.

Under the provisions of Sub-Section (1),(2),(3) and (4) of section 3G of the said Act the public notice is hereby issued to the land owners and interested persons in such land to appear in person or by an agent or by a legal practitioner on the following date and time before the Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority N.H.169A and Assistant Commissioner, Kudapura Sub-division Kundapura and to state the nature of their respective Interest in such land along with the copies of the documents such as 1) Original records 2) Sale/Partition/Other deeds of title 3) R.T.Cs 4) Copy of mutation register 5) Tax paid receipts 6) Encumbrance certificate and any other relevant document.

Sl.No.	Name of the Taluk	Name of the Village	Date, Time & Place
1	Udupi	1) Bommarabettu	27.04.2026 (11.00 am to 01.00 p.m) Assistant commissioner Office Kundapura

Sd/-
Rashmi S.R, K.A.S
Special Land Acquisition Officer and
Competent Authority N.H.169A and Assistant Commissioner,
Kundapura Sub-division, Kundapura

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 30th March, 2026

S.O. 1652(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, **1598(E) Dated:02/04/2025**, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening two lane with paved shoulders / four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No - 169A in the stretch of land from Km. 51.600 to Km. 76.200 (Hebri to Parkala) and from Km. 85.200 to Km 88.900 (Karavali Junction to Malpe) (Thirthahalli - Udupi section); in the district of UDUPI in the state of KARNATAKA;

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in “Deccan Herald” dated 12/04/2025, “Udayavani” dated 12/04/2025; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the stretch of land from Km. 51.600 to Km. 76.200 (Hebri to Parkala) and from Km. 85.200 to Km. 88.900 (Karavali Junction to Malpe) (Thirthahalli - Udupi section) on NH169A in the district of UDUPI in the state of KARNATAKA.

State: KARNATAKA **District: UDUPI**

Sl. No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Hectares)	Name of the Land Owner/ Interested Person
Taluk: Udupi					
Village: Bommarabettu					
1	18/2A4	Private	Wet	0.1012	K. Naresh Kamath S/o K. Prabhakar
			Total	0.1012	

[F. No. RW/BN/KNT/NH-169A/3A/3D]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

Biz Bytes

Rupee rises 23 paise to settle at 92.91/USD

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee appreciated by 23 paise to settle at 92.91 against the US dollar on Friday, buoyed by a weakening American currency and retreating crude prices amid hopes of easing geopolitical tensions.

On Thursday, the rupee gained 19 paise to settle at 93.14 against dollar. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.12% to 97.90.

Stock markets rally amid easing tensions

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rallied nearly 1% on Friday, driven by optimism surrounding easing geopolitical tensions, falling crude prices, and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 504.86 points, or 0.65%, to settle at 78,493.54. During the day, it surged 564.77 points, or 0.72%, to 78,553.45. A total of 3,043 stocks advanced while 1,284 declined and 166 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 156.80 points, or 0.65%, to end at 24,353.55.

Oil tumbles 10% after Hormuz reopens

NEW YORK, AP: Oil prices fell by 10%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average soared 1,020 points after Iran said the Strait of Hormuz is fully open, which would allow oil tankers to exit the Persian Gulf again and carry crude to customers worldwide.

The S&P 500 jumped 1.3% in morning trading Friday as US stocks race toward the finish of a third straight week of big gains.

The Nasdaq composite climbed 1.5%. Stocks have rallied 12% since late March on hopes that the US and Iran can avoid a worst-case scenario for the global economy.

Centre issues list of 15 banks authorised to import gold, silver

Includes SBI, foreign lenders such as Deutsche Bank

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Friday issued a list of 15 banks, including State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and a few foreign lenders, which will be authorised to import gold and silver in India.

As per a notification dated April 17, issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), 15 banks have been authorised to import gold and silver in India until March 31, 2029. The order is effective retrospectively from April 1, 2026.

Two banks — Union Bank of India and SBER Bank — are authorised to import only gold. The banks that have been authorised to import both gold and silver include Axis Bank, Bank of India, Federal Bank Limited, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, Punjab National Bank, SBI, RBL Bank and Yes Bank.

The list also includes German lender Deutsche Bank and Chinese government-run Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

According to the notification, these lenders have been authorised by the RBI for handling bullion imports.

India is the second-largest consumer of gold and is heavily dependent on imports to meet bullion demand. India imports over 90% of gold and more than 80% of silver requirements. Switzerland is the largest supplier of gold to India, followed by the UAE and South Africa.

The DGFT notification came after *Reuters* reported that banks had put a pause on fresh imports of gold and silver due to confusion in the government's direction.

The development comes ahead of Akshaya Tritiya, which is considered one of the most-important occasions of gold purchases in India. This year, the festival will be celebrated on April 19.

Silver plunges Rs 5,700

NEW DELHI, PTI: Silver price declined by Rs 5,700 to Rs 2.53 lakh per kg in the national capital on Friday, while gold fell to Rs 1.56 lakh per 10 grams amid subdued demand in the domestic market.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal plunged Rs 5,700, or 2.2%, to Rs 2,53,000 per kg (inclusive of all taxes). Gold of 99.9% purity also decreased Rs 1,600, or 1.01%, to Rs 1,56,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

In overseas markets, spot gold was trading marginally lower at $4,786.90 per ounce, while silver gained 1.12% to $79.28 per ounce.

Firms being arm-twisted to divert investments away from Karnataka, says Priyank Kharge

NEW DELHI, DHNS: IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Friday alleged that firms are being arm-twisted into shifting their investments away from Karnataka, despite the state possessing the country's strongest talent ecosystem.

Priyank Kharge

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a roadshow in the national capital for the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026 to be held in November.

Karnataka developed a suitable ecosystem for IT and related sectors after 40 years of hardwork. Companies are keen to invest in the state, but are forced to set up their facilities elsewhere, he said.

"Why is semiconductor going to Gujarat and Assam? That's my question! That's what I have been asking! When PLIs come, they have to choose their state. The name is 'Karnataka'. How does it become Gujarat by the time the application reaches Delhi? They are coming to my state. Why are they being arm-twisted to Gujarat?" Kharge asked.

"They are coming to our state only. They want to invest here. It works out for them. Our human resource is one of the most agile and best in the world. But yet, they are going to be pushed to Gujarat," Kharge said.

He said Karnataka is planning to rejig policy to promote sustainable data centres. "We are now entering what many call the deep tech decade — an era defined by AI, semiconductors, space tech, cybersecurity, and green technologies. Karnataka is preparing not just to participate in this shift, but to help shape it," he said.

Adani overtakes Ambani to become Asia's richest

NEW DELHI, PTI

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani has overtaken Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani to become Asia's richest person, as a sustained rally in shares of his ports-to-energy conglomerate lifted his net worth.

With a net worth of $92.6 billion, Adani surpassed Ambani, whose fortune stands at $90.8 billion, to become the richest person in India and Asia, according to the latest billionaire rankings.

Adani is currently ranked No. 19 on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, which tracks the world's 500 richest individuals and is updated daily. His wealth is largely derived from his shareholdings across the group's 10 listed companies.

By contrast, Ambani's wealth, anchored by his flagship conglomerate that spans energy, telecom and retail, has seen comparatively modest gains, reshuffling the region's billionaire rankings.

Topping the ranking is Elon Musk, the chief executive of Tesla and SpaceX, with a staggering net worth of $656 billion.

TCS appoints Deloitte, Trilegal for Nashik probe

CEO says not received any POSH complaints

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tata Consultancy Services has now appointed expert teams from Deloitte and law firm Trilegal as independent counsel to the internal investigation led by TCS COO Aarthi Subramanian.

TCS CEO and MD K Krithivasan on Friday said in a statement that they have not received any complaints of POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment).

"While detailed reviews are still underway, a preliminary review of the systems and records pertaining to the Nashik unit indicates that we have not received any complaints of the nature that are being alleged on either our ethics or POSH channels," he said.

The company has constituted an Oversight committee chaired by Keki Mistry, Independent Director of TCS, and the findings of the internal investigation will be presented to the Oversight committee, for review and implementation of any recommendations, the CEO informed.

Krithivasan also said Nida Khan, who is being repeatedly mentioned in the press as HR manager of TCS, is neither an HR manager nor responsible for recruitment. She served as a process associate and did not hold any leadership responsibilities.

K Krithivasan

He also confirmed that the Nashik unit continues to operate and serve clients. "Reports in the press about the unit being shut down are absolutely untrue," he said.

The company, for the first time after nearly six days, issued a detailed statement regarding the Nashik probe. Last week, the Nashik police formed an SIT to probe the complaints lodged by eight employees, who claimed that senior colleagues mentally and sexually harassed them, and the human resources department turned a deaf ear to their complaints. They said the incidents were reported between 2022 and 2026. Later, TCS, in a statement, said the company has a long-standing zero-tolerance policy towards harassment and coercion of any form.

On April 13, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran announced that Aarthi will lead the probe. He said the Nashik incident is being treated with utmost seriousness and that the complaints and allegations emerging from the Nashik branch of TCS have been gravely concerning and anguishing.

WEAKEST QUARTER

India's smartphone shipments drop 3% in January-March, says report

NEW DELHI, PTI

Supply-side cost pressures and weak demand took a toll on India's smartphone shipments, which fell 3% YoY in Q1 2026, suffering its weakest quarter in the last six years, according to Counterpoint Research's Monthly India Smartphone Tracker.

On the outlook, Research Director Tarun Pathak said India's smartphone market is expected to remain under pressure in the near term, with Q2 2026 likely to see a double-digit decline, as elevated memory prices and weak entry-level demand continue to weigh on overall volumes.

"For the full year, the market is projected to decline by 10% YoY, as sustained component cost inflation, particularly in memory, which has already increased 4x over the past three quarters, continues to impact affordability and lengthen replacement cycles," Pathak said.

As per Counterpoint's latest tracker, nearly one-third of model launches were advanced to Q1 to primarily offset rising component costs, as OEMs aimed to mitigate further Bill of Materials inflation, particularly due to memory prices and currency fluctuations.

With average hikes exceeding Rs 1,500, the sub-Rs 15,000 segment has been hit the hardest, given its high price sensitivity.

"Rising energy costs amid geopolitical tensions in West Asia are straining household budgets, pushing consumers to prioritise essentials over discretionary purchases like smartphones," Senior Analyst Prachir Singh noted.

Top smartphone brands ringing in India

1 vivo (21% market share)
2 SAMSUNG
3 oppo (fastest-growing among top 5)
4 xiaomi
5 realme (strong online)

Others to watch:
- **Apple** – 9% share, strong premium demand
- **Nothing** – fastest-growing overall
- **Google** – rising in premium
- **OnePlus** – leads affordable premium segment

Source: Counterpoint Research

Apple saw its shipment share reaching 9% in Q1 2026, driven by sustained strong momentum of the iPhone 17 series, supported by aggressive offers such as long-term EMI schemes and exchange offers. Apple is better positioned to navigate memory price pressures, supported by its premium portfolio and efficient supply chain management, Counterpoint said.

In terms of the India smartphone market volume share, vivo (excluding iQOO) led the charts with a 21% share in Q1 2026, driven by an expanded product portfolio, strong traction in the mid-premium segment and well-executed channel discipline.

Samsung was at the second spot, supported by strong traction in its mass-market portfolio, driven by attractive offers on key A-series models (A07, A36 and A56), alongside a positive early response to the Galaxy S26 series.

The quarter also reflected a phased flagship rollout and continued portfolio optimisation across price segments. Samsung clinched its highest shipment contribution from the Rs 15,000-20,000 segment during the quarter, supported by a well-balanced portfolio across tiers.

OPPO (excluding OnePlus) retained its third position in Q1 2026 with a 14% share. It registered an 8% YoY growth to become the fastest-growing brand among the top five.

Xiaomi (including POCO) ranked fourth in Q1 2026, with its Rs 10,000-20,000 segment registering double-digit YoY growth. This was backed by improved channel execution (dual-channel approach) and a sharper portfolio focus on hero models, enabling better returns and retail traction.

According to the Q1 snapshot, realme saw strong traction in the Rs 10,000-20,000 segment in online channels, ranking among the top two brands.

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No: KREIS/INFR/OTH/67/2026-ADMN/E-313119 Date: 17.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

Tenders have been invited on 17.04.2026 for **Supply of Stiched Uniforms to Schools functioning under the Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society across Karnataka,** through e-Portal vide Indent No. **KREIS/2026-27/IND0093** and the last date for receipt of tenders is **02.05.2026.** The details may be viewed in the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website.

Sd/- Joint Director (Admin) and Tender Inviting Authority, KREIS

DIPR/CP/YC/239/2026-27

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, TEC Division, Zone-1, BECC, Bellanduru Main Road, Bellanduru, Bengaluru -560103

No.BECC/EE/TEC/Z-1/TN/01/2026-27 Date: 17/04/2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Two Cover System)
(Through GOK KPPP Only)

The Executive Engineer, TEC Division, Zone-1,Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC), on behalf of the Commissioner, invites online tenders (Technical and Financial) for appointing Agency for Availing Graduate/Diploma Engineers for Bengaluru East City Corporation. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from **21-04-2026.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Amount Put to Tender (Including GST) in lakhs /EMD amount in Rs.
1	Providing/Outsourcing Graduate/Diploma Engineers for Bengaluru East City Corporation. Amount Put to tender: **Rs.110.55 Lakhs**, EMD : **Rs.1,66,000/-.**

Calendar of events:
1. Last date of submission queries : **24.04.2026at 15.30 hours**
2. Date & time for Pre Bid Meeting : **24.04.2026 at 15.30 hours.'**
3. Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : **28.04.2026 before 16.00 hours.**
4. Date & Time for Opening Technical bid : **29.04.2026 at 16.30 hours**
5. Date of Opening of Financial Proposals after Approval of Technical Proposals through KPPP.
Bid document may be referred for other terms and conditions and any Corrigendum/Addendum will be published and notified only through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or Contact KPPP/portal

Sd/- Executive Engineer, TEC Division, BECC

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.CEE/Tr(O)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AEE-1/SS-42/2026-27/622-26 Date: 16.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids for the following Services.

Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/2026-27/SE2367 for Providing Fifteen(15) no's. of Security guard (men) Services required to 220/66 kV Hassan R/s, 220/110/66kV Dudda R/s, 220/110 kV Geejihally R/s, 220/66/11kV R/s Chikkanagara & 400/220kV Hebbanhally R/s pertaining to Operations Division, Hassan and Hebbanahlly for a period of one year (12 months) on contract basis. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the e-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL **website https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper link 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 21.04.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M.Road, Hassan- 573201

Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Taluk General Hospital, Challakere

NO: TGH/C/ Non clinical TENDER/2026-27/21 DATE: 15.04.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(IN TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM)

A short terms eTenders are invited in the name of the Chief Medical Officer, Taluk Hospital, Challakere for the provision of non Clinical and Group D Services for the years 2026-27 from a reqputed registered Chief Medical Officer, Challakere date of submission of e-tender forms on the officer, Taluk Hospital, Challakere date of submission of the e tender forms of the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ 15/04/2026 to 14/05/2025 and last date for filling up online 14/05/2026 up to 5pm and date of opening of technical bid: 16/05/2026 at 11:00 am if for any reason the date of loading downloading and opening of the app online is declared a government holiday, the next date will be considered. For more details, please visit http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 45/2026-27

Sd/- Chief Medical Officer, Taluk General Hospital, Challakere

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru-560 020

No. BDA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT229 Date: 17.04.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, BDA, Bengaluru invites sealed tenders in two cover system from eligible tenderers **for Improvements and providing Mobile Compactors for Storage to Shop No. 20 to 25 and at Ground Floor of BDA Commercial Complex situated at Kengeri, Jnanabharathi BDA Complex, Bengaluru.** Approx. value of work: **Rs. 167.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 2.51 lakhs.**

Tender Process Schedule: (1) Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **25.04.2026, 12.30 p.m. (2)** Date and time of opening Technical bid: **28.04.2026, 12.30 p.m.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Infrastructure Division of BDA during office hours.

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, BDA, Bengaluru

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, Amruthahalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560 092.

No:BNCC/EE/SD/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 17-04-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC invites tender on behalf of the Commissioner, BNCC, Bengaluru from eligible registered agencies in any state Govt. Organization for providing services mentioned in the table below.

Sl No.	Description
1.	Hiring Operation and Maintenance of 10 nos Self Propelled Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines on per Kilometer basis for 10 years for Sweeping HDC, Arterial and sub Arterial Roads within Bengaluru North City Corporation. (Call-3) **Duration:10 Years, EMD Amount: As per Standard Tender Document KW-6**

Calendar of Events : (1) Last Date & Time for Queries (Only through Online) is **24-04-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Date & Time of Pre-Bid meeting on **24-04-2026** upto **3:00** pm. (3) Last date & time for Receipt of Tenders is **04-05-2026** upto **4:00** pm.(4) Opening of Pre-Qualification on **05-05-2026** at **11:00** am if Possible next working day (5) Opening of Technical Bid on **07-05-2026** at **4:30** pm if Possible. (6) Opening of Financial Bid on After Technical Bid Approval (if possible)

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BNCC

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521

No: 952/Gadag/EE(E)/E-No-/2026-27/192 Date: 16-04-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites following Office tenders pertaining to Operations divisions, Gadag:

(1) Recondition of Failed Capacitor Cell at 110KV S/s Dambal. **(2)** Supplying of Maintenance Material at 220KV Station Harthi. **(3)** Repair/Replacement of existing ABB make REL670 Distance Relay of 220KV Bidnal Line-1 (Main-I) at 220KV R/s Harthi. **(4)** Supply of TNC Switch Suitable for 220KV Line and Bus Coupler at 220KV S/s Harthi. **(5)** Replacement of Electro-mechanical Backup Relay connected to 11KV Bank-1 at 110KV S/s Dambal. **(6)** Arresting Oil leakage of 10MVA 110/11KV Power Transformer -1 SPEC make transformer at 110KV S/s Shirahatti. **(7)** Arresting of Oil Leakage of 20MVA 110/33KV Power Transformer-3 at 110KV S/s Mundargi. **(8)** Recondition of Failed Capacitor Cell at 110KV S/s Mundargi.

Enquiry Details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned from **18-04-2026 at 10:00Hrs onwards.** Due date: **02-05-2026 at 04:00 pm.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele)
Operations Division, KPTCL, Bapuji Nagar, Gadag-582103

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023
Phone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**

No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1/AE-2/TND/2026-27/176 Date: 17.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Contractors registered in KPWD in two Cover tender document system through Karnataka Public Procurement portal for the following works. **(1)** Description of work: **Construction of Ayushman Arogya Mandiras at (1) Aivaranadu (2) Devachala (3) Doddatota (4) Hariharapalladadka (5) Jalsooru (6) Kalamakaru (7) Mupperiya (8) Nalkuru. (9) Thodikana, Sullia Taluk (10) Bettampadi (11) Kemmara, (12) Ithoor, (13) Narimogaru, Puttur Taluk at Dakshina Kannada District (Call-8).**
Approx. Amount Put to Tender (Excluding GST): **Rs. 715.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 11.00 Lakhs.** Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon): **5 Months.**
Calendar of Events Short-term tender: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **02.05.2026 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids)**: 04.05.2026 at 16.01 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the KPPP platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Earnest Money Deposit and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPPP platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

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AISHWARYA S 464 (92.8%)

SNEHA S 460 (92%)

ANIKA SUSHMA RAJ 456 (91.2%)

DHANUSH V 456 (91.2%)

KALPANA R 456 (91.2%)

MEGHANA K N 454 (90.8%)

SHRAVYA S 454 (90.8%)

VEERESH GOWDA B S 454 (90.8%)

ARCHANA S 453 (90.6%)

DIGANTH L 451 (90.2%)

POSHIKA C 450 (90%)

GAYANA M 449 (89.8%)

RITHIK V 449 (89.8%)

NIKITHA M 444 (88.8%)

SHRUTHI P 440 (88.%)

KRISHNA PRASAD NAYAK 439 (87.8%)

DEEKSHA R 433 (86.6%)

DEEPAK GOWDA G 432 (86.4%)

HARINI SUBASH 418 (83.6%)

KISHORE J 418 (83.6%)

VAISHNAVI T 417 (83.4%)

VAIBHAV SURYA 414 (82.8%)

A HARISH 413 (82.6%)

SARIKA A V 410 (82%)

SAMPREETH KUMAR S 408 (81.6%)

RAKSHITH B 404 (80.8%)

BHAVANA K U 402 (80.4%)

AKASH N 399 (79.8%)

KAVITHA 391 (78.2%)

RAJESH GOWDA S 389 (77.8%)

SHUCHITH GOWDA G 388 (77.6%)

SRI KRISHNA V 384 (76.8%)

INDRAJITH J 383 (76.6%)

AMULYA K N 382 (76.4%)

VIKAS B M 377 (75.4%)

PREKSHA S 376 (75.2%)

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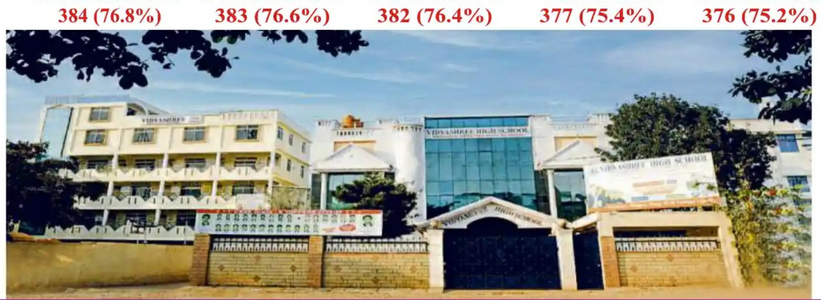
CONGRATULATIONS



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The most famous grin

Valsala Rajan writes about the Cheshire Cat who challenges what is real, what is fantasy and what lies in between

Alice asked the Cheshire Cat, who was sitting in a tree, "What road do I take?"
The cat asked, "Where do you want to go?"
"I don't know," Alice answered.
"Then," said the cat, "it really doesn't matter, does it?"
— Lewis Carroll, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

So, who's the oddest character you've come across in a book? And when I say 'odd', I really mean ODD. A character unlike any other. I can think of a few dozen who are strange, but there's one who beats all of them. Half the time, you see, he doesn't have a body — just a grin! Some of you, if you've read the book or seen one of the various movies, will know just who I'm talking about — the Cheshire Cat from Alice in Wonderland. Today, I'm off to meet him, or maybe just see the grin? I really have no idea what to expect.

"What do you want to see?" said a deep, purry voice in my ear. I jumped and turned around to see a big, fat tabby sitting on the wall that I was leaning against. "Look here, this is why you're weird — you just appear unannounced and, er... disappear as you're doing now," I said rather crossly as I watched the cat's body disappear inch by inch until there was just a head hanging in the air. "I'm not weird or crazy... my reality is just different from yours," said the head. "Are you real?" I asked. "Real people don't behave like that." "Ah!" said the cat. "What is reality? Are you saying that only when I have a body, I'm real?" "Well, yes..." "But aren't ideas real? Isn't a thought real? Isn't the wind real? Do all these things have bodies?" My head began to spin. This was no ordinary interview... "Reality is defined," said the cat, "by your perspective rather than by a fixed, objective truth. As I told Alice, a dog wags its tail when it's happy, but I wag my tail when I'm angry, so which is the truth? You know how, when you're describing an event that happened some years ago to your family, your friend keeps butting into the story to make corrections? You were both there, but you both saw the reality differently." I thought about what he said. "I suppose that's true...," I said slowly, "but..." "Yes...?" inquired the cat as it reappeared slowly.

"Okay, okay... stop it!" "Stop what?" asked my interviewee. "This habit of yours of muddling things up until I don't know right from wrong." He grinned and opened his mouth to say something else when I hastily cut in. "Why are you a Cheshire Cat and not just any cat?" "Well, way before Carroll wrote about me, there was already an idiom, 'grinning like a Cheshire Cat'. I suppose that the cats in Cheshire were well fed on the dairy products of the area and so were always content and grinning. It might also have been the shape of the cheese made in the area, shaped a bit like a grin."

"Why couldn't you have helped poor Alice instead of bugging her all the time?" "Bugging her all the time? Me?" the cat asked in mock dismay. "Imagine the miserable time she would have had at the Queen's croquet game but for my timely appearance." I smiled as I remembered how the queen was so put off by the disembodied head of the cat and frustrated that the executioner couldn't very well chop off a head when it was only a head! I had to admit that that was hugely entertaining.

"Yes, but what about the time when you sent her off to the Mad Hatter's tea party instead of helping her find the way?" "Well, she's the one who said she didn't know where she wanted to go. And so, it didn't really matter where she went, did it? She needed to see that everyone is a little bit mad and that you need to accept chaos and be a bit mad to get through life." "That's not true! I'm not mad!" I said indignantly. The cat grinned and began to disappear slowly.

"No, no! Don't go away! I have a couple more questions to ask you," I said. "Quickly then," said the disembodied head. "I just wanted to understand why you didn't guide poor Alice properly." "How could I tell her which path to take when she couldn't tell me where she wanted to go? You can't get an answer without asking the right question! You can't choose the 'right' path if you have no goal in mind!" I had to admit that that sort of made sense.

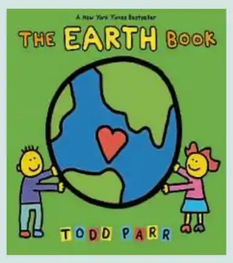
"So, what was your actual role in Wonderland? You don't answer questions, you don't guide people or help them, you're not exactly the funniest person there..."

"I like to think of myself as a latter-day Socrates. I ask questions that make people think, much like Socrates did." I rolled my eyes. "I give direction so that people might experience life for themselves, and it isn't my job to be funny. Everybody is funny if you observe life. I enjoy watching events — the world is funny." And with that, the head disappeared.

This made me wonder if Carroll's true interest was philosophy, despite a strong background in logic and mathematics.

5 BOOKS ON PLANET EARTH

World Earth Day is on April 22



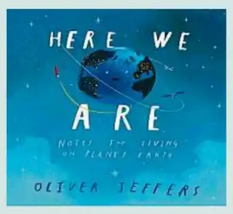
The Earth Book

Written and illustrated by Todd Parr, this 40-page picture book is a pleasant introduction to caring for the planet. Narrated using Parr's bold, childlike art style, the book follows a simple, repeating structure where a young narrator shares small actions like turning off lights, reusing paper, and planting trees. The plot is less about a single storyline and more about building awareness through everyday habits, helping children understand that even the smallest efforts contribute to protecting Earth.

Dear Earth

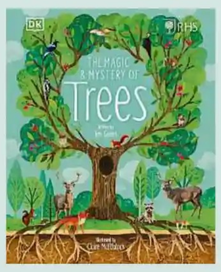
Written by Isabel Otter and illustrated by Clara Anganuzzi, this 32-page book takes the form of a heartfelt letter from a child to the Earth. The narrative moves through different natural landscapes, celebrating their beauty while gently acknowledging environmental harm done to them. The plot is reflective, encourages mindfulness and gratitude, and ends with a call to action to care for the planet. Anganuzzi's soft, collage-style illustrations lend a calming quality to the book.

Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth



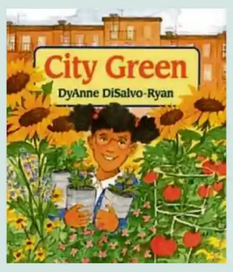
Written and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers, this 48-page book serves as a gentle guide to life on Earth. Framed as a note to his newborn child, Jeffers introduces readers to the planet's landscapes, oceans, animals, and people, before addressing the idea of coexistence and care. The plot is structured as a journey across Earth, encouraging curiosity and empathy, while reminding children that the planet is shared and must be protected.

The Magic and Mystery of Trees



This 80-page book by Jen Green explores the hidden life of trees and forests. Through a narrative that blends facts with storytelling, children learn how trees communicate, share nutrients, and support ecosystems. The book's "plot" reveals about interconnected systems, how trees can document the past and reveal about survival in the future, and talks about extraordinary trees from across the world. Claire McElfatrick's vibrant illustrations bring these invisible processes to life, making it easier for young readers the importance of conservation.

City Green



This 32-page story by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan, centres on a young girl named Macy, who transforms a vacant urban lot into a thriving community garden. The plot follows her determination as she gathers support, navigates bureaucracy, and eventually creates a green space that brings people together. Using its unique storytelling style and watercolour illustrations, the book highlights themes of urban ecology, community action, and how individuals can make a visible difference to their environment.

Should kids choose their own bedtime?

Open Sesame readers talk it out

YES

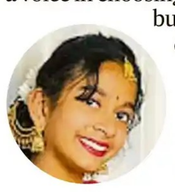
I believe children should have a say in choosing their own bedtime, with proper guidance from parents. Every child is different — some feel sleepy early, while others need more time to relax after a busy day. Allowing children to decide helps them understand their own body and sleep patterns.

When children are given this responsibility, they learn important life skills. If they stay up late and feel tired the next day, they begin to understand the consequences of their choices. This helps them develop independence and better decision-making abilities from a young age.

Moreover, very strict bedtimes can sometimes create stress or resistance. Giving children some flexibility makes them feel trusted and respected. It also improves communication between parents and children, as decisions are made together rather than being forced.

However, this does not mean complete freedom. Parents should guide children and ensure they get enough sleep for their health, growth, and school performance. A balanced approach is always best.

In conclusion, children should have a voice in choosing their bedtime, as it builds responsibility, confidence, and self-awareness while maintaining healthy habits.



R INISHA, 13
Bengaluru, Karnataka

NO

Imagine a world where children decide their own bedtime — midnight movies, endless scrolling, and sleepy, unfocused mornings. It may sound exciting, but in reality, it is a recipe for imbalance and exhaustion.

I strongly stand against the motion.

Children are naturally drawn to fun, not always to what is right. If given the freedom, many would sacrifice sleep for entertainment. But sleep is not a choice — it is a necessity. It fuels the mind, strengthens the body, and prepares a child for the challenges of a new day.

Furthermore, parents set bedtimes not to control, but to care. Their guidance is built on experience and concern. A fixed routine teaches discipline, responsibility, and healthy habits that last a lifetime.

Lack of proper sleep affects not just studies, but also mood, behaviour, and overall well-being. A tired child cannot dream big, think clearly, or shine brightly.

In conclusion, giving children complete control over their bedtime is not freedom — it is a risk. Because when children lose sleep, they don't just lose rest... they lose their ability to rise, to learn, and to truly shine.

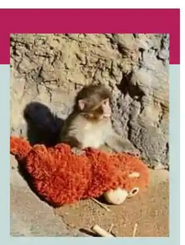
Thank you.

ANIKA GOWDA, 11
Bengaluru, Karnataka

LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to Punch the monkey

If you could have a conversation with Internet's favourite baby macaque Punch, what would you like to know about him, and what would you tell him about yourself? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in* Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph. Entries close on April 23.



POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'Happy memories' to *Open Sesame*. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in* Entries close on April 30. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

Word of the Week

rebuke

(verb)
— to speak angrily to somebody because they have done something wrong

Usage:
— The editor rebuked the reporter for missing an important detail in the story.
— Sahiba rebuked him gently, reminding him to be more mindful of others.

This Week:

Land of landmarks

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 April 18 is Zimbabwe Independence Day. The country was, in turn, called Southern Rhodesia, Rhodesia and Zimbabwe Rhodesia until it gained freedom, in 1980. Which colonial administrator gives Rhodesia its name?

Q2 On November 16, 1855, who sighted the Mosi-oa-Tuny (Lozi for 'the smoke that thunders') waterfall, on the Zimbabwe-Zambia border, and named the falls in honour of Queen Victoria?

Q3 Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe is President of the International Olympic Committee and the first woman to hold that post. Which sport has earned Kirsty medals at several championships?

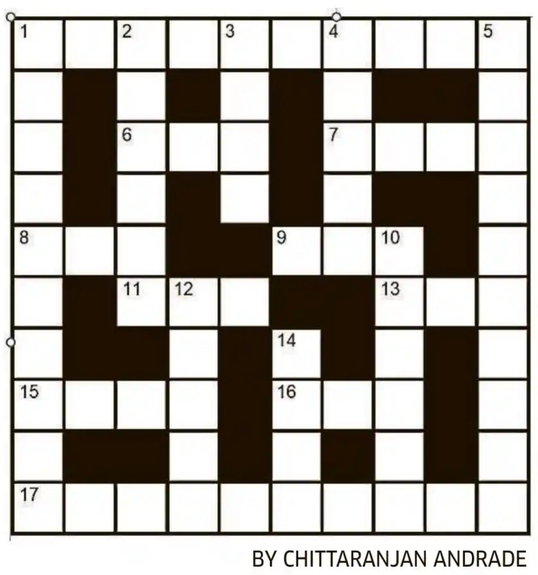
Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time**
Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: In July 2015, at Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park, a hunter killed a __.
Clue B: Descendant of a notable family.

Q5
Clue Cluster:
Which city in Zimbabwe is home to Africa Unity Square?
Use these clues.
a) Sunshine
b) Salisbury
c) Mount Pleasant
d) Jacaranda

WINNER'S NAMES: Dhruv K (8), Bengaluru; Tanushri Araginashetti (13), Badami; V Radhakrishnan (12), Bengaluru.
ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: A1) Columbia University, A2) Robert Frost, A3) Theodore ('Ted') Sorensen, A4) Lee/Bee, A5) Sinclair Lewis.

CROSSWORD



BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

Across
1 Don't judge a book ___ (2,3,5)
6 Fairylike creature (3)
7 A shellfish (4)
8 An old horse (3)
9 A spherical body or planet (3)
11 Flow out (3)
13 Chemistry room (3)
15 Lady's fingers (4)
16 Small, round, green vegetable (3)
17 Don't count your chickens before they ___ (3,7)

Down
1 Sodium bicarbonate (6,4)
2 A cold period in Earth's history (3,3)
3 Free from danger (4)
4 Happen (5)
5 Recalled (10)
10 Whiten using chemicals (6)
12 Sandy seaside area (5)
14 Eject saliva (4)

ANSWERS:
Across: 1 By its cover, 6 Elf, 7 Clam, 8 Nag, 9 Orb, 11 Ebb, 13 Lab, 15 Okra, 16 Pea, 17 Are hatched.
Down: 1 Baking soda, 2 Ice age, 3 Safe, 4 Occur, 5 Remembered, 10 Bleach, 12 Beach, 14 Spit.

INSIDE A PRISON, A REFORM CHECK

DH journalist Shilpa P visits the model correctional facility in Mysuru and discovers a complex ecosystem where there is the promise of rehabilitation alongside the despair of confinement

"Please let me meet my son, Pasha, and hand him some fruits. My son was watching the fight and was not really a part of it," pleaded Haseena to a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) officer, as I entered the Mysuru Central Prison. Haseena held her five-month-old daughter in one arm and her five-year-old son in the other. Her other son, a 10-year-old, was in a madrasa. Pasha, a 19-year-old fruit vendor, is the sole breadwinner of the family. Her husband, she shared, had abandoned them.

It was April 4, 2026. With prior permission from Alok Kumar, director general, Department of Prisons and Correctional Services (DPCS), and V Sheshumurthy, chief superintendent of the prison, I visited the facility on Ashoka Road — a model prison known for its correctional services. It houses 754 inmates. It is one of the nine Central Prisons in Karnataka. Across the state, 54 prisons under the DPCS house about 15,000 inmates, of whom around 700 are women.

I chose to wear a white cotton saree with a red border, a gesture of solidarity with the inmates. As I stepped into the frisking room through a door-frame metal detector, I saw that Haseena was not alone. At least 30 others waited, clutching few fruits and hope, for a few minutes with their kin.

After I was screened and my bag thoroughly scanned, I placed my charger and phone in a locker and entered the prison with a book and pen in hand. The prison seal was imprinted on my wrist, and I was screened again before proceeding further.

Built in 1862 and spread across 21 acres, the prison is a self-contained ecosystem, with its own farm, training institute, and staff quarters.

In the interview room, emotions ran high. I met an inmate named Chandrashekar. "Hello appa, hegiddeera," he shouted into an intercom telephone. His father, K Mahadeva Nayak from Chamarajanagar district, stood on the other side of the toughened glass wall. "Chennaagidini maga," he replied. Nearby, Haseena's eyes welled up as she spotted Pasha. She pressed her palms against the glass, as if willing it to dissolve.

Here, convicts are allowed to meet their kin once a week, and undertrials twice a week, between 10.30 am and 1.30 pm, and 2.30 pm and 5.30 pm.

The barracks are unlocked at 6.30 am. The day begins with the singing of the national anthem, followed by the state anthem. This is followed by prayers at the Ganesha temple, church and mosque at 7 am. Breakfast is at 7.30 am — on that day, vegetable pulao was being served. Post breakfast, inmates attend yoga and meditation sessions before going about their day. Many make a beeline for the interview room; others log in for virtual court hearings in video conference halls.

Clockwise from above: 1. Inmates work at the carpentry unit. 2. The Mysuru Central Prison was built in 1862. 3. Women inmates learn embroidery and zardosi work.

Place for transformation

A prison is often perceived as a place of mere confinement, a space defined by restriction and punishment. However, a day at the Mysuru Central Prison suggested a more layered reality. Officials describe it as a space inching towards reformation, even invoking the idea of a 'new-age ashram', rooted in self-reflection and rehabilitation, as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi and 18th-century prison reformer Elizabeth Fry.

Under the 'Parivarthana' initiative, the DPCS has introduced activities such as yoga, meditation, prayer, counselling, cultural programmes and sports. Officials say these interventions have steadily improved inmates' mental and physical health.

Inmates are also enrolled in basic education programmes. They undergo vocational skill training, and some work in factory units. Their freedom may be curtailed, but not, as prison officials emphasise, their capacity to rebuild their lives.

Prabhakar, who is serving a life sentence for the murder of his wife, for instance, pays for the medical education of his two children who live outside.

The inmates are in many ways atmanirbhar — self-reliant. They grow vegetables, grind wheat and ragi flour, cook their meals, make soaps and phenyl, and weave cotton fabric to stitch their clothes. Coir door mats, carpets and bakery products, marketed outside the prison, are also produced here.

Daily routines unfold to the hum of the jail's community radio. Some inmates assist at hospitals or take on night patrol duties, adding to the rhythms of an enclosed yet active world.

Walking past the barracks, I noticed they were neatly maintained, and equipped with both Indian and western-style toilets. Inmates received wages amounting to Rs 1.94 crore between January 2024 and April 2025, and the prison earned Rs 9.34 lakh from bakery and factory products during 2024–25.

Even within confinement, small indulgences persist. Inmates purchase fruits and other modest 'luxuries' (like pickle) from the canteen using coupons, the cost deducted from their wages.

At the hospital

The men's hospital has two general physicians, a psychiatrist, staff nurses and support staff.

The most common conditions treated by general physician Dr Kiran are hypertension, diabetes and minor ailments. "Their blood pressure is normal when they go on parole. It shoots up the moment they return, as they miss their families," he said. For serious illnesses, inmates are referred to K R Hospital, the District Hospital in Mysuru, or Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology in Mysuru.

Counsellor R Shruthi attends to inmates dealing with mental health issues and deaddiction. When I visited, she was in session, while several others waited for their turn.

Dr Kiran added that the hospital is equipped for basic lab tests and X-rays. About 18 inmates are HIV positive. "While we manage with the current staff, a few more counsellors and psychiatrists would make a significant difference," he said. "We have been under the Department of Health and Family Welfare since 2024. A larger hospital building and direct procurement of medicines would help address occasional shortages."

Women's barrack

Before entering prison, undertrial Ambika imagined starvation and daily torture. Seven years on, that perception has shifted. "I have pursued a beautician course and learnt embroidery, garland making, and saree tassel design," she said.

Ambika's husband is lodged in the men's barracks, and they meet for half an hour each week under the supervision of prison staff. "I also speak to my two children over the phone for 10 minutes a week and meet them once on the premises," she said.

The women's barrack houses 29 inmates — 11 undertrials, 17 life convicts and one death row prisoner. Through the day, some attend literacy classes, while others train in computer skills, tailoring and zardosi work. The unit has a medical facility with two general physicians, a psychiatrist and a counsellor.

As I stepped out, chief warder Sharada Naidu, who will retire this year, said: "I may be a spinster with no children, but I am happy the inmates call me 'amma'."

Jailor N R Chethana noted that several former inmates have set up tailoring shops and beauty parlours after release. "Recently, we rehabilitated a woman inmate at Shakthi Sadana Kendra in Hassan when her family did not turn up to receive her," she said.

About 98 per cent of inmates come from underprivileged backgrounds, said assistant superintendent M Deepa. Legal aid is provided through the district legal services authority, while NGOs often step in to cover legal fees.

Literacy classes

The library in the men's barracks was a hive of activity. On the day of my visit, about 50 inmates of different ages sat bent over books and slates. Sixty-year-old Mahadev, proudly showed me his slate — he had just learnt to write his name in Kannada.

Instructor Prem Kumar said, "From October 2023 to September 2024, 69 inmates, including five women, completed literacy courses. Since 2012, 22 inmates have earned degrees, including 10 master's degrees. Currently, 67 are pursuing SSLC and PUC through the National Institute of Open Schooling." Elsewhere, inmates watched television, played board games or worked in factory units. Outdoor sports are part of the routine. "They play volleyball and cricket between 5 pm and 6 pm," said jailor Paramesha Nayak. Younger inmates are segregated. Undertrials whose lives are under threat or those involved in high-profile cases are monitored in high security cells.

Towards self-reliance

Factory units operate from 8.30 am to 11 am and 11.30 am to 4.30 pm, engaging 134 inmates serving rigorous imprisonment.

Instructor Ashok Karbani showed me their work — including a striking drawing of three skeletons: one covering its eyes, one its mouth and the third its ears. I paused, wondering what interior worlds these images emerged from. Another inmate had crafted a wooden mantapa with a carved Ganesha. Kiran showed me jugs and ice cream cups made from coconut shells and handed me one to take home.

In collaboration with the Karnataka State Coir Development Corporation, inmates produce ropes and coir mats. Carpentry units repair furniture and take orders. There are also soap, phenyl, weaving and baking units. The facility includes both powerlooms and handlooms for producing textiles, yoga mats and carpets. The bakery, run by five inmates, produces cakes, cookies and cream buns sold at the Parivarthana bakery outside. "The wage is Rs 327 per day for five hours and Rs 524 for eight hours," said Sheshumurthy.

Deepa noted that wages in other states are often below Rs 200 per day. "Inmates in Karnataka are among the highest paid," she said. About 400 inmates are being trained in tailoring through CSR funds, while others are learning computer skills to work as data entry operators.

Farm to table

I took a break to eat a simple meal — radish and dal sambar with chapathi, mudde and rice — cooked by inmates.

"We mostly use vegetables from our prison garden," said Superintendent Ashe Khan. "Eggs are served on Tuesdays, mutton on the first and third Fridays, and chicken on the second and fourth Fridays. We also serve vegetable pulav, tomato bath, chitranna, avalakki, puliyogare, uppittu and vangibath for breakfast," he added.

Crime and punishment

Pradeep is the radio jockey and, naturally, the voice of the prison community radio. Marrying a minor girl and having a baby with her proved costly for the inmate, who is facing life imprisonment under POCSO. His son is being cared for by an NGO, and his wife is now married to another man. Out of 73 inmates booked under POCSO, most cases involve child marriage. A total of 287 inmates are serving sentences for murder. Six are booked under the Narcotic Drugs Psychotropic Substances Act, 22 for attempt to murder and 24 for rape. "It takes three to four years for inmates to begin reforming," said Sheshumurthy.

Former inmate Kuruba Suresh spent two years in jail after being wrongly accused of his wife's murder. She was later found alive. While he was locked up, his son had to work to pay for the education of his sister and take care of his grandparents as well. "I could do nothing, as only prisoners facing rigorous imprisonment are given jobs with wages," he shared.

"There are many undertrials who spend two years or more in prison due to a delay in trials. But once acquitted and proven not guilty, they are not given compensation. I have approached the High Court of Karnataka, seeking compensation of Rs 5 crore from the investigation officers for the lapses in the probe," Suresh revealed.

Space constraints

The prison, built to house 577 inmates, currently holds 754. A new barrack is under construction. A 2014 request for additional land remains pending. Of 208 sanctioned posts, 152 guards work in shifts. Plans are underway to install CCTV cameras with AI-based intrusion detection systems to monitor the security of the prison and the activities of the inmates.

The only complaint I heard came from a 76-year-old inmate who missed homemade snacks like chakli and nippattu prepared by his wife, and seasonal fruits like mango, as the families are permitted to give only a few fruits.

"The humaneness we show returns in many forms. Years ago, after a man from a tribal community was picked up from a hamlet in the middle of the forest, his only concern was his pregnant wife, who had to be hospitalised. We rushed in the middle of the night and found his home. His wife had fainted. We got her admitted to the nearest hospital, and she delivered a baby boy. The boy still calls me on his birthday every year," Sheshumurthy recalled.

DG Alok Kumar noted: "As the saying goes 'Hate the sin but not the sinner'. These inmates are in prisons due to various circumstances and are reformed here. Society should accept them as humans more graciously."

Like this story? Email: dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

MUSICANA

Holding her own in kanjira world

Latha Ramachar gravitated towards the tiny frame drum though it has few female practitioners, writes N Krishnamurthy

The kanjira is a small frame drum, about 7-8 inches in diameter and 2-4 inches deep. According to Ruairi Glasheen, an award-winning percussionist and filmmaker, "In the right set of hands, this tiny instrument can produce an incredible range of sounds." Bengaluru's Latha Ramachar is one such talent. She is arguably the only female kanjira player to have reached the upper echelons of Karnatik music.

Latha is an A-grade artiste with All India Radio. The 61-year-old has accompanied leading musicians such as M S Subbulakshmi, M Balamuralikrishna, and L Subramaniam, in whose ensemble she performs regularly. She has received several awards, including the 'Yuva Kala Bharathi' from Bharat Kalachar, Chennai.

Latha started her journey in percussion at the age of 12 under her father, the late H P Ramachar, a renowned kanjira player. She began with the mridangam before moving to the kanjira. She has imbibed her father's playing style, marked by a strong emphasis on tonal quality and a refined finger-tapping technique. Her other gurus, including the legendary Umayalpuram K Sivaraman and Anoor Anantha Krishna Sharma, further honed her skills in complementing the mridangam in concerts.

She has since forged her own path by exploring diverse musical styles. Most notably, she is part of Stree Shakti, a percussion-led ensemble blending Karnatik, Hindustani, and folk traditions.

Standing out as a kanjira player is not easy. The kanjira is an 'upa pakkavadhya', or secondary percussion instrument. Its introduction into Karnatik music is credited to Manpoondiya Pillai.

Trained in the thavil, a barrel-shaped instrument played with both hands, Pillai wanted to create something that could be played with one hand. The result was the kanjira, a tambourine-like instrument. The word means 'miniature vessel' in Tamil. Pillai introduced it to the classical stage in the 1880s. In concerts, the kanjira remains secondary to the mridangam, like the ghatam and morsing, and does not feature in every performance. At the ongoing Ramanavami music season in Bengaluru, only about 15 of nearly 60 concerts across two venues include the kanjira. And none feature women. The trend was similar during the 2025 Margazhi season: of 21 concerts that included the kanjira, not one featured a woman artiste.

To Latha's knowledge, there is only one other female kanjira player, Krishna Priya, based in Chennai. She attributes this gap to the perception that playing the kanjira has traditionally been seen as a male domain. "I have many students from India and abroad, but none of them are girls," Latha says.

(The author is the founder of a tech company and writes about music and everyday life.)

Latha Ramachar is an A-grade artiste with All India Radio.

BOLLYWOOD'S SHIFTING GAZE

The missing KASHMIRI VOICE

The influence of Hindi cinema has perpetuated a one-sided perception of the Valley, writes Zulfikar Majid

Mani Ratnam's 'Roja' is among the earlier films that brought Kashmir into mainstream Hindi cinema through the lens of national security, militancy, and state response.

Hindi cinema has repeatedly returned to Kashmir — but rarely on terms defined by Kashmir itself.

Across decades, the Valley has been recast to fit shifting national moods and cinematic trends. It has appeared as romance, paradise, conflict, and more recently, as a site of historical assertion. Films like 'Kashmir Ki Kali', 'Roja', 'Mission Kashmir', 'Yahaan', 'Lamhaa', 'Haider', 'Shikara', and 'The Kashmir Files' mark not just cinematic evolution, but changing ways of seeing Kashmir itself.

Yet across these shifts, one continuity stands out: Kashmir remains highly visible on screen, but Kashmiris remain marginal in shaping how their own story is told.

From paradise to presence

In the 1960s and '70s, Kashmir in Hindi cinema was largely an aesthetic idea. 'Kashmir Ki Kali' turned the Valley into a cinematic paradise — lush landscapes, romance, and escapism. The region existed as a backdrop rather than a society.

'Lamhaa' attempted a more political reading of the region but narrative authority rested heavily with Sanjay Dutt's character who arrived from outside.

That changed sharply in the '90s. With insurgency and political unrest entering national consciousness, cinema shifted too. 'Roja' became a landmark, bringing Kashmir into mainstream Hindi cinema through the lens of national security, militancy, and state response.

From that point onward, Kashmir was no longer just scenery. It became narrative terrain shaped by conflict.

Conflict as dominant grammar

By the 2000s, films like 'Mission Kashmir' and 'Yahaan' further embedded Kashmir within stories of trauma, radicalisation, and personal loss. 'Lamhaa' attempted a more political reading of the region but still relied heavily on external perspectives to guide the viewer.

Even when the films engaged seriously with conflict, Kashmir often remained a setting for other people's moral journeys rather than a society speaking in its own voice.

The outsider gaze

A recurring critique among scholars and commentators in Jammu and Kashmir is the dominance of what is often called an "outsider gaze" in Hindi cinema.

Even when Kashmir is central to the plot, narrative authority frequently rests with characters who arrive from outside — soldiers, journalists, intelligence officers, or investigators — through whom the audience is invited to understand the Valley.

Farrukh Faheem, sociologist at the University of Kashmir, sees this as a structural limitation rather than an isolated creative choice. "Kashmir in mainstream cinema is rarely treated as a lived society with its own internal voice. It becomes a setting where others arrive, interpret, and define. That creates an imbalance in storytelling itself," he says.

This reading aligns with the work of historian Mridu Rai, who has argued that dominant Indian narratives on Kashmir are often framed through lenses of security and nationalism, leaving limited space for Kashmiri subjectivity. "The story of Kashmir is frequently told through the priorities of the state rather than the experiences of its people," she has noted in her academic work.

In such framing, Kashmiri characters often appear as victims, militants, or silent observers — present in the story, but rarely driving it.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

A more assertive turn

In recent years, Kashmir's cinematic representation has taken a more assertive and politically charged turn. 'The Kashmir Files' triggered widespread debate over memory, representation, and historical narrative, becoming one of the most discussed films in recent years.

For many audiences outside the Valley, such films often serve as primary reference points for understanding Kashmir.

Faheem notes that cinema's influence lies in its emotional structure. "Film does not just represent reality — it organises emotion. When that emotion is built around binaries, it can fix perception in ways that persist long after the viewing experience ends," he says.

The concern raised by scholars is not only about what is depicted, but also about what is excluded.

Repetition and reduction

For many Kashmiris, cinematic representation is experienced not as isolated portrayals but as repetition over time.

A Srinagar-based visual artist working with memory and identity describes this repetition as narrowing. "We are repeatedly shown through extremes — either as victims or as threats. But ordinary life is missing. That absence is not neutral; it slowly becomes the dominant image," the artist says.

This absence is significant in a region where everyday realities — education, work, relationships, cultural life — rarely find sustained cinematic attention. Over time, repetition itself becomes a form of narrative construction.

Nuance at the margins

There have been attempts to complicate this cinematic language. 'Haider' is widely regarded as one of the more layered mainstream Hindi films on Kashmir, reimagining Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' to explore disappearance, militarisation, and moral ambiguity. 'Shikara' attempted to centre the displacement of Kashmiri Pandits.

But these remain exceptions within a broader ecosystem that continues to favour clarity over contradiction and resolution over ambiguity. Even when nuance appears, it often competes with more dominant, high-volume narratives that define popular understanding.

Who owns Kashmir's story?

At the heart of the debate is authorship. Most mainstream Hindi films on Kashmir are conceived, written, and produced outside the region. This distance shapes not only storytelling choices but also what is considered narratable.

Faheem frames it as a question of narrative authority. "Representation is not only about visibility. It is about who has the power to define meaning. When Kashmiris are not part of that process, what emerges is always partial," he says.

That partiality is what many in the Valley respond to — not a single misrepresentation, but a sustained absence of voice.

Beyond familiar frames

Bollywood's Kashmir has transformed repeatedly — from romantic escape to security lens to conflict narratives, and the more recent, assertive storytelling.

Each phase reflects the anxieties of its time — romantic, political, and ideological. But across all phases, one gap remains consistent: the limited presence of Kashmiris as authors of their own cinematic representation. As the Srinagar-based artist puts it: "We are present in these films, but not as storytellers. That difference shapes everything about how we are seen."

Ultimately, Kashmir in Hindi cinema has never been just about geography — it has been about meaning. Each phase of representation, from romance to conflict to assertion, reflects shifting national anxieties as much as cinematic imagination. But in that process, Kashmir is often spoken about more than spoken with.

MOVIE R | E | V | I | E | W | S

Horror-comedy sucks life of both

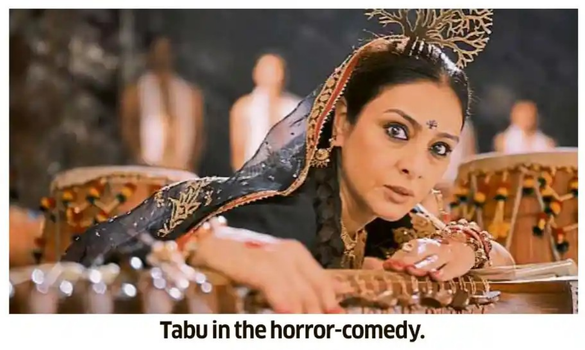
TAHER AHMED

A director like Priyadarshan, a proven genre, and a strong cast — 'Bhooth Bangla' has all the teeth, but unfortunately none of the bite.

Set up as a horror-comedy, the film checks all the right boxes, albeit only on paper. A haunted backdrop, a cast with proven comic timing, and a genre that has delivered time and again. The first half even shows glimpses of this promise, with a few moments that manage to create a mild sense of unease.

Unfortunately, it never quite builds on that.

The movie explores the belief of a small town where newly married women vanish, taken by an evil superpower. Undeterred by this, Arjun (Akshay Kumar) comes down to this town, taking possession of the palace his sister Meera (Mithila Palkar) inherited, choosing the palace as the location for her wedding.



Tabu in the horror-comedy.

★★½☆☆

Bhooth Bangla

Hindi (Theatres)

Director: Priyadarshan

Cast: Akshay Kumar, Tabu, Paresh Rawal, Rajpal Yadav

What unravels is a comedy of errors, and a story that wavers. A greedy wedding planner, a clumsy electrician, an old caretaker, and a young lady trying to uncover the truth behind her missing sister make this a hotchpotch.

The second half drifts away from horror and leans into comedy, but not in a way that works. The transition feels abrupt, and the humour rarely lands, diluting whatever tension was created earlier.

While logic is often flexible in such films, here it feels more forced than forgiven. What stands out more is the underutilisation of its characters, many of whom feel limited despite their potential. Overall, 'Bhooth Bangla' is a decent watch, but even its bhoots can't bring this bangla to life.

Likeable macho potboiler

ARUN ANTHONY

In 'Pallichattambi', the film's writer S Suresh takes many references from post-independent Kerala — which has just voted the first communist party to power — to tell a story of a village in Idukki.

The film traces the communist party's land-reformation laws that led to a lot of riots and protests from various socio-economic groups that were considered upper class. It also saw protest from the Christian community that believes communism is the tool of the "devil" to influence Christians to become non-believers.

Tovino plays Christopher aka Krishna Pillai, the church's strongman who is appointed to fend off communists from taking over the church's lands. 'Pallichattambi' follows his journey as he meets Rebecca, a communist activist and the heroine of the play — 'Ningal Enne Communist Aaki' (You made me a communist). The film sets an interesting premise in the first half. And it is quite enjoyable, if one is ready to look past some historical inconsistencies, which is presented as alternative history in the film.

Tovino Thomas and Kayadu Lohar play the lead pair.

★★½☆☆

Pallichattambi

Malayalam (Theatres)

Director: Dijo Jose Antony

Cast: Tovino Thomas, Kayadu Lohar, Siddique

Predictably, the film falters almost immediately post interval. It tries hard to be a commercial entertainer while not trying to sabotage its grand message about unity and gets chaotic with unnecessary twists and multiple subplots.

Prithviraj as Pattelar Kunjambu Nambiar adds to the visual aesthetic of the film. However his presence doesn't add much and is only an overused trope of building a universe and a "strong villain" who's "yet to come".

Kayadu Lohar's Rebecca is not just eye-candy but also drives the protagonist with a purpose. While the subpar dubbing is not necessarily her fault, a south Indian actor would have brought more life to the role. The over-the-top hair and make-up failed to replicate a women of the period.

While Tijo Tomy's cinematography is breathtaking, music composer Jakes Bejoy hardly adds anything new. Tovino performing Yakshagana is a visual treat.

Ancient evil returns in gory avatar

DIVYA P

With director Lee Cronin of 'Evil Dead Rise' fame at the helm, 'The Mummy' takes a horrifying, gory turn. The latest movie revolves around the disappearance of young Katie, who is found eight years later, much to the delight of her parents, Charlie and Laurie. But the happy news, which washes away years of distress, is only the beginning of their trouble. With skin peeling off and curled-up nails, the very sight of Katie could make your flesh crawl.

Lee Cronin has also penned the supernatural horror film, setting up the first half with joyful frames of a happy family, which inadvertently breaks as the suspense builds over what happened to Katie.

Natalie Grace plays Katie.

★★★☆☆

Lee Cronin's The Mummy

English (Theatres)

Director: Lee Cronin

Cast: Jack Reynor, Laia Costa, Natalie Grace

Though no one is out on an expedition or accidentally unleashing mysterious power, 'The Mummy', which also begins in Cairo, has a link to a sarcophagus and ancient evil. Jack Reynor plays journalist Charlie, who seeks to know how his daughter was found in the ancient coffin, while Laia Costa delivers an empathetic performance as the mother who insists that she can 'fix' her daughter. The suspenseful first half gives way to gore and body horror, which some may not be able to stomach. You can also find traces of 'Exorcist' and 'Evil Dead'.

Natalie Grace is convincing as the eerie Katie, who acidly tells her grandma that it is fun to be dead! Billie Roy, as Katie's younger sister Maud, also deserves a mention for her innocent portrayal that soon shifts to sinister. May Calamawy and Verónica Falcón are other notable cast members.

Fans of the genre who would not look away from gore can step into the dark halls to watch 'Lee Cronin's The Mummy'.

A funny toaster mayhem

PRANATI A S

A tired Ramakanth returns home from work, his hands instinctively reaching for the switchboard to turn off the mosquito repellent — to save electricity. As he moves through the house, he switches off every appliance in sight. That's Ramakanth for you: a miserly middle-class man who will go to any length to save money — or rather, spend little.

He lives with his wife Shilpa in Mumbai and takes her out on "lunch dates" to eat langar at a nearby gurudwara. He switches off his scooter engine and holds on to a truck to "save" fuel. Details like this make Ramakanth amusing, and his shenanigans land as quietly comic. There is some level of innocence to his actions — that of an average Indian's battle with everyday inflation.

Rajkummar Rao is a stingy man in the dark comedy.

★★½☆☆

Toaster

Hindi (Netflix)

Director: Vivek Daschaudary

Cast: Rajkummar Rao, Sanya Malhotra, Archana Puran Singh

Ramakanth's life soon takes a dark turn when he becomes obsessed with an "expensive" toaster his wife gifted at a wedding. Entangled in murder and mayhem, "Ramu" is forced into bizarre and absurd circumstances. It's interesting how an entire narrative is built around a toaster. The bizarre scenarios make the film a compelling watch. There is some amount of silly comedy that makes some parts tiresome.

'Toaster' has an appealing visual aesthetic that blends with an urban hip-hop background score, making the movie look quirky and messy.

Rajkummar Rao is effortless in making one giggle, and Sanya Malhotra's Shilpa, whose only escape are the crime thrillers she watches, adds some amount of exaggeration to the dark comedy. However, it is Archana Puran Singh, (Mrs Pherwani) who is the real winner.

The 'Queen of Indipop', who died earlier this week, ventured into unexpected genres and mastered them, writes Rashmi Vasudeva

When Asha turned to pop

Reams have been written about Asha in the past week, and far better writers than I have waxed eloquent about her versatility, talent and chutzpah. One favourite writer memorably called her "Lata plus." But Asha was never merely a "plus"; she was an entire affirmation.

The world often treated her as her sister's shadow, as someone waiting in the wings for her turn. But Asha was always on a stage of her own, the spotlight fixed on the ease with which she sang and the effortless way she tiptoed into genres you would never expect her to master. Take the way she waltzed into the indie-pop scene as if she had been born for it. In truth, those instincts ran deeper. Encouraged by R D Burman, she had long flirted with jazzy thrums here, a hint of Latino rhythm there, a nightclub swing elsewhere. That elasticity served her well when she decided she had to be part of the indie-pop wave of the 1990s.

Here, then, is a very subjective curation of some of her finest pop numbers, in no particular order:

Raat Shabnami

Although the title track of Asha's 1997 pop album, 'Jaanam Samjha Karo', produced by Leslee Lewis, was one of the defining songs of the era, it is this dulcet late-night number that still pulls you in.

When Asha sings, 'tehron padi hain raat ye saari' (the night is still young), my teenage heart beat hard and whispered all the impossible things it dreamt of.

Kabhi Toh Nazar Milao

The title track of the album of the same name, released at the turn of the century, was on nearly every Top 10 list. Singer-composer Adnan Sami burst onto the Indi-pop scene, and Asha's gliding "hum bhi toh hain tumhare" and Sami's piano runs sparkle with an easy chemistry that transformed a seemingly ordinary tune into a decade-long earworm.

Parde Mein Rehne Do Remix

If you needed more proof of what Asha was made of, look no further than this recreation. Asha was no purist; she had no qualms about remixing her own hit numbers and, mind you, she sang them all over again, with composer Biddu weaving his magic into the reimagined classics on the album 'Asha Once More' (1997). I dare say this particular recreation is one up on the original. Allah meri tauba indeed!

Jab Samne Tum Aa Jate Ho

Asha Bhosle teamed up with Jagjit Singh for the album 'Dil Kahin Hosh Kahin' (2000), and the result was slow-burn magic.

The lyrics by Nida Fazli and the music by Aadesh Shrivastava are a mood unto themselves. Asha is at her softest in this number, which feels like two lost souls exchanging stray lines of poetry. There is longing tucked into every pause. When Asha sings, 'aakar chale na jaana' (Having come into my life, don't walk away), Jagjit replies, 'hum koi waqt nahi hain humdum, jab bhulaoge chale aayenge' (I am not time, my beloved; I will come whenever you call me). In that poetic exchange lies an intimacy that entire movies have failed to achieve.

Quick takes

No flaw jaw

▸ Frustrated crew members nicknamed the film Flaws. Its lead, known on set as Bruce, kept breaking down, inspiring an even crueller title: The Great White Turd. But, as SRK said, "end tak sab kuch theek ho jaata hain." Spielberg would have so agreed. 'Jaws' (1975) terrorised us not by showing the shark, but by making us fear the unseen. Because Bruce, the mechanical prop, malfunctioned so often, Spielberg employed restraint, and a classic was born. Restored in 4K, the movie is all set for a re-release. "Pleased and happy", as the flick's foolish mayor says, to report that the beaches shall be reopened!

Delayed gratification

▸ News is that Ram Charan's 'Peddi', slated for April 30, is eyeing a June release now. Apparently, the 'Yash movie' is considering another delay. After its item song became a national issue (read, outrage), no one ought to be wondering who's in trouble with the censor chaps. At this point, the real competition in Tinseltown is not about how good a movie is, but who postpones the most.

Afterall, there ain't anything sweeter than delayed gratification, is there!

Gaurav Gill

Veteran Gill sets early pace in South India Rally

BENGALURU, DHNS: Gaurav Gill, returning to rallying after a year's break, showed no sign of any rust as he put in a dominating performance to top the time sheets in the 49th South India Rally which commenced at the Madras International Circuit in Chennai on Friday.

Bengaluru's Arun Y Mavaji and Arvind Dheerendra topped the INRC 2 and INRC 3 classes respectively while Tarushi Vikram (Chikkamagaluru) was the fastest in the Ladies class and also in the Junior INRC category.

The three-day event is also the second round of the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship powered by Vamcy Merla and Round 1 of the FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship.

Provisional results (Leg 1, Section 1): Asia-Pacific Rally Championship: Gaurav Gill/Srikanth GM 2:51.5s, 1; Karna Kadur/Kumar Ramaswamy 2:56.6, 2; Jason Saldanha/PV Srinivasa Murthy 2:58.3, 3.
INRC: Gaurav Gill/Srikanth GM 2:51.5, 1; Ritesh Rai/Phalguna Raghavendra 2:55.6, 2; Karna Kadur/Kumar Ramaswamy 2:56.6, 3.
INRC 2: Arjun Y Mavaji/Jeevarathinam J 3:09.5, 1; Ritesh Guttedar/Suraj M 3:10.3, 2; Rakshith Iyer/ Chandrashekar 3:18.2, 3.
INRC 3: Arvind Dheerendra/Shahid Salman 3:01.5, 1; Ashwin Pulagiri/ Raghunath Swaminathan 3:01.9, 2; Tarushi Vikram/Athreya Kousgi 3:05.6, 3.

Pranavi makes cut in Jo'burg

JOHANNESBURG, PTI: Pranavi Urs carded a bogey free 3-under 70 in the first round of the Joburg Ladies Open on the Ladies European Tour and was best placed to make the cut among the five Indians at the event.

At the end of the first day, she was tied-21st at the Par-73 Randpark Golf Club.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Delhi Capitals **(3:30 pm)**, Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Chennai Super Kings **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Brentford vs Fulham **(5 pm)**, Newcastle United vs Bournemouth, Leeds United vs Wolverhampton Wanderers **(both 7:30 pm)**, Tottenham Hotspur vs Brighton & Hove Albion **(10 pm)**, Chelsea vs Manchester United **(12:30 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

Copa Del Rey (Final): Atletico Madrid vs Real Sociedad **(12:30 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

ISL: Kerala Blasters FC vs Jamshedpur FC **(5 pm)**, FC Goa vs Mumbai City FC **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2, FanCode.**

IFL: Diamond Harbour FC vs Gokulam Kerala FC **(4 pm)**, Shillong Lajong FC vs Aizawl FC **(6:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5, SonyLIV.**

TENNIS

ATP 500 Barcelona Open: Semifinals **(5:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

FOOTBALL EUROPA LEAGUE

Brilliant Villa feast on Bologna

Emery's side sets up semis clash against fellow English rivals Nottingham Forest

LONDON, AFP

Morgan Gibbs-White scored Nottingham Forest's lone goal during their win against Porto in the Europa League quarterfinal second-leg match at The City Ground in Nottingham on Thursday. AFP

Aston Villa demolished Bologna and Nottingham Forest beat Porto in the Europa League on Thursday to set up an all-English showdown in the semifinals.

Leading 3-1 from the quarterfinal first leg, Unai Emery's team swatted aside Bologna with a 4-0 victory at Villa Park.

Forest, 12 spots below fourth-placed Villa in the Premier League, defeated 10-man Porto 1-0 in Nottingham to secure a 2-1 aggregate success.

Villa are into their second European semi-final under Emery after making the last four in the Conference League in 2024.

Europa League specialist Emery has won the tournament four times -- three with Sevilla and one at Villarreal -- and also finished as a runner-up with Arsenal.

Ollie Watkins had scored twice in the first leg in Italy and the England striker tormented Bologna again in the 16th minute.

It was an eye-catching goal as Villa's flowing 14-pass move climaxed with Morgan Rogers setting up Watkins for a tap-in from six yards.

Watkins' 100th goal for Villa made him the club's top scorer in European competitions with 10, overtaking Peter Withe and John McGinn.

Villa missed a 25th minute penalty after Martin Vitik handled a header from Rogers, whose spot-kick was saved by Federico Ravaglia.

But it was only a temporary reprieve for Bologna as Emiliano Buendia struck with a fierce blast in the 26th minute.

Rogers made up for his penalty miss in the 39th minute, netting for the first time in 12 games with a drive that beat Ravaglia at his near post.

Ezri Konsa's 89th-minute volley capped Villa's dominant display.

"We needed to get the first goal, it was very important. They are a dangerous team away from home," Villa captain John McGinn said.

"A great first half gets us to a semi-final, I'm delighted."

At the City Ground, two-time European champions Forest booked their first continental semifinal since the 1983-84 UEFA Cup.

Porto defender Jan Bednarek was dismissed in the eighth minute for an ugly foul that caught Chris Wood on the knee and forced the New Zealand striker to limp off injured.

Emotion at Forest

Forest quickly took advantage of their numerical superiority as Morgan Gibbs-White's shot from the edge of the penalty area took a hefty deflection before looping into the back of the net in the 12th minute.

Gibbs-White celebrated by holding up a shirt with Elliot Anderson's name on it in a tribute to the Forest star, who missed the game due to the death of his mother.

There was another emotional moment at half-time when former Forest striker Tony Woodwork was presented with a winners' medal from the 1980 European Cup.

Woodcock's strained relationship with then Forest boss Brian Clough led him to be denied a medal after he left the club during their run to win the competition for a second successive season.

Forest had a narrow escape when Porto's William Gomes hit the woodwork from close-range in the second-half and they rode their luck again in the closing minutes as Alan Varela struck the crossbar.

Playing in Europe for the first time since the 1995-96 UEFA Cup, Vitor Pereira's side will hope their Europa run provides a boost in their battle to avoid relegation.

"The club and the supporters deserve it. I have a fantastic team. They have the spirit, character and quality," Pereira said. "It's too much to think Villa now. I will think about it after Burnley this weekend."

Freiburg swept into the Europa League semifinals for the first time with a 3-1 win against Celta Vigo.

After taking the first leg 3-0 in Germany, Julian Schuster's side finished the job in Vigo, winning 6-1 on aggregate thanks to Igor Matanovic's opener and Yuito Suzuki's double.

Results (Quarterfinals, second legs): Celta Vigo: 1 (Swedberg 90+1st) lt to Freiburg: 3 (Matanovic 33rd, Suzuki 39th, 50th). Aggregate: Freiburg win 6-1; Aston Villa: 4 (Watkins 16th, Buendia 26th, Rogers 39th, Konsa 89th) bt Bologna: 0. Aggregate: Aston Villa win 7-1; Real Betis: 2 (Antony 13th, Ezzalzouli 26th) lt Braga: 4 (Pau Victor 38th, Carvalho 49th, Horta 53rd pen, Gorby 74th). Aggregate: Braga win 5-3; Nottingham Forest: 1 (Gibbs-White 12th) bt Porto: 0. Aggregate: Nottingham Forest win 2-1.

Neeraj accuses coach Naval of abusive behaviour

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Tokyo Olympics champion Neeraj Chopra accused fellow Dronacharya awardee javelin throw coach Naval Singh of using abusive language and derogatory remarks towards him and other athletes in a letter written to the Sports Authority of India.

As per the letter, dated April 10, Neeraj said coach Naval, who has trained established javelin throwers Sachin Yadav and Sumit Antil, directed foul language towards him and his family while crossing all the boundaries of basic human decency.

"The statements made by coach Naval Singh are not just inappropriate, they are disgraceful abusive language directed at me, my family, and fellow athletes cross every boundary of professionalism and basic human decency," read the letter which is in possession by *DH*.

"I am shocked and disappointed to hear such derogatory comments. This kind of behavior from a person in authority is intolerable and brings disrepute to the sporting system as a whole."

Neeraj further urged SAI to take immediate and decisive action with strict accountability on the matter while adding, "I expect this issue to be addressed with the seriousness it demands."

DH contacted Naval for his comments on the matter but multiple calls went unanswered. Naval was awarded Dronacharya back in 2015 for his exploits with para javelin throwers. He grabbed further limelight last season when Sachin emerged as the second-best thrower in the country with a personal best of 86.27m at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo after grabbing a silver medal at the Asian Championships.

Harassment charges

Meanwhile, Neeraj's claims were backed by another Naval trainee Sumit, a two-time Paralympic champion and multiple world para javelin record holder. The differently-abled athlete levelled similar charges against him in a letter dated on the same day. Sumit added he has personally endured mental harassment from the coach over a prolonged period while accusing Naval of doing so in an inebriated condition.

While an official statement from SAI is awaited at the time of writing, it has been learnt from reliable sources that the sports body has already responded to the matter saying that the accused is not a SAI-employed coach but has taken the matter up with the Athletics Federation of India and Paralympics Committee of India.

Neeraj Chopra (left) accused Dronacharya awardee Naval Singh of using foul language and making derogatory remarks against him and fellow javelin throwers.

Treesa-Gayatri out of India's squad for Uber Cup Finals

NEW DELHI, PTI

Treesa Jolly's (right) ankle injury forced her and her partner Gayatri Gopichand to pull out of the Uber Cup Finals beginning in Denmark on April 24. PTI

Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand has withdrawn from the upcoming Uber Cup Finals after the former sustained an ankle injury, dealing a blow to India's campaign in Denmark.

India will compete in the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals to be held in Horsens, Denmark, from April 24 to May 3.

"Treesa sadly twisted her ankle just 2-3 days before leaving for the Badminton Asia Championships. It was an accident during training -- she stepped on her partner's foot," India's doubles coach B Sumeeth Reddy said.

"She is resting now and will undergo rehabilitation. It is not a major injury, and she should recover in about four weeks. She will look to return at the Singapore Open at the end of May," he added.

The Indian pair had also withdrawn from the Swiss Open last month due to Treesa's shoulder issue. They were trailing Chinese Taipei's Hu Ling Fang and Jheng Yu Chieh in the opening game when they retired from their first-round match in Basel.

"In doubles, such minor issues happen. She had a shoulder problem earlier but is fine now," Sumeeth said.

In their absence, the Badminton Association of India (BAI) has named Shruti Mishra and Priya Konjengbam as replacements.

Shruti and Priya, the 2023 Senior National champions, are currently ranked 48th in the world. They were part of the Indian team that won gold at the Badminton Asia Team Championships in 2024.

Sat-Chi in Denmark

Meanwhile, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who had played a pivotal role in India's 2022 victory, will travel early to Denmark to train ahead of the Thomas Cup Finals.

Satwik and Chirag, ranked world No. 4, had pulled out from the Swiss Open quarterfinals in March due to a shoulder injury sustained by the former.

Rybakina, Gauff cruise into quarters

STUTTGART, AFP

Top seed Elena Rybakina beat Diana Shnaider in straight sets to qualify for the quarterfinals of the WTA clay-court event in Stuttgart on Thursday as reigning French Open champion Coco Gauff also advanced.

The 26-year-old Rybakina, who was champion in the German tournament in 2024 but skipped last year's event, relied on her service game as she won 6-2, 6-4 against the unseeded Russian in one hour and 12 minutes.

Shnaider, ranked 19th in the world, improved in the second set but was undone by double faults at crucial moments, allowing Kazakh Rybakina to capitalise.

Rybakina capped the match off with her ninth ace and will next take on Canada's Leylah Fernandez, who beat Zeynep Sonmez in three sets late on Thursday. Fernandez won 6-7 (2/7), 6-1, 7-6 (7/5).

Elena Rybakina

World No.3 Gauff kicked off her bid for a first Stuttgart title with a straight sets win over Liudmila Samsonova.

The American second seed won 7-5, 6-1 to book a quarterfinal clash with Czech Karolina Muchova to be played on Friday.

Gauff said she modelled her clay court game on 14-time French Open winner Rafael Nadal, but said she was still trying to catch up to the Spanish legend.

"The greatest clay court player is Rafa. I don't quite play like him but I try to hit my forehand like him," Gauff said, adding: "I'm like the Walmart version of Rafa -- I don't want to be obliterated online.

Earlier on Thursday, Muchova came from a set down to beat Elise Mertens 1-6, 6-3, 6-0 to book a clash with Gauff.

World number nine Mirra Andreeva pushed past American Alycia Parks in straight sets in their last 16 clash to extend her winning streak to six matches.

Sixth seed Andreeva is in fine form having won the clay event in Linz last week.

Djokovic, Alcaraz pull out

Novak Djokovic has pulled out of the Madrid Open because of a lingering injury, reports AP from Madrid.

The fourth-ranked Djokovic hasn't competed since the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells. He missed the Miami Open because of a right shoulder injury and also skipped the Monte Carlo Masters.

Carlos Alcaraz announced on Friday his withdrawal from next week's Madrid Masters, just two days after the Spaniard was forced to pull out of the Barcelona Open with a wrist injury.

RUDSET Institute
Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute
Pioneer in Rural Entrepreneurship Development
Ujire, Beltangady, Dakshina Kannada Dist - 574 240 Karnataka
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Sealed tenders are invited from eligible and qualified bidders under Two-Bid System for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning (SITC) of **Solar Rooftop Panels at RUDSETI buildings** located at various places across the State of Karnataka. Interested bidders meeting the eligibility criteria may download the detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) from the **websites: viz.www.rudsetitraining.org, www.canarabank.com, www.eprocure.gov.in** Last Date for Submission of Tenders **07.05.2026** up to 3.00 P.M. All further communications, corrigendam, and amendments, if any, shall be published only on the above-mentioned websites.

Date : 18.04.2026
Sd/-, Executive Director

KARNATAKA STATE FINANCIAL CORPORATION
HEAD OFFICE : No. 1/1, Thimmaiah Road, Bangalore-560052, Phone No: 080-22250137 / 22352946
REQUIREMENT OF LEGAL ADVISOR

Karnataka State Financial Corporation requires the service of Senior Advocates/Retired District Judges to conduct cases in Court on its behalf and offer legal opinion on retainer basis. The persons so empanelled will function as Legal Advisor and they will be eligible for:-
(1) Retainer fees at **Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Twenty five thousand only)** per month. **(2)** The retainer fees also cover the professional advise/opinion they are expected to give during their tenure in the Corporation. **(3)** For cases conducted in the Court on behalf of the Corporation fees will be paid as per the fee structure prevailing in the Corporation. **(4)** Reimburement of TA/DA at the prescribed rates as applicable to the Officers of the Corporation for out station Court work. **(5)** The Leal Advisor needs to visit the Head Office and available for consultation/advise/any other legal work at least 3 days in a week.
The candidates should have put in minimum of 20 years practice in High Court or retired District Judge. Persons having the above qualification may forward their detailed resume on or before **02.05.2026** to the Managing Director at the above given address. As regards to selection, the decision of the Corporation is final.

Sd/-
Managing Director

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com
No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2026-27/124
Dated:13/04/2026
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-4 on E-procurement portal for 05 no of works pertaining to Raichur And Koppal district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned works varies from **Rs. 100.00 to 500.00 Lakhs .** The tenderers may submit tenders for the mentioned work through E-procurement portal only. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after**17-04-2026**. Last date & time for receipt of tender is **28-04-2026** time 16.00 hours, Pre bid meeting will be held on **27-04-2026** 11.00 Hours at Division office koppal. date & time for opening of technical bid **30-04-2026** time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid **02-05-2026** time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/30/KSMCA/2026-27

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BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYAT
O/o Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bengaluru-560070.
No.EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/01/2026-27 Date: 17.04.2026
Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Notice

2025-26 Invitation of tenders for Operation and Maintenance of MRF Units (Pre-Qualification) Bangalore Urban Zilla Panchayath and Invitation of Tenders for Providing Outsource Human Resource in RDW&SD, Bangalore Urban Division and Sub division, Under Various Head of Accounts, in Two Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **02.05.2026 up to 4.00 pm.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Bengaluru Urban Dist, Bengaluru
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KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
#49, "Parisara Bhavan", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka, INDIA,
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in
No. PCB/ 02/BLD/2026-27/148 Dated:15/04/2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER CALL-1
(Through GOK e-procurement platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites tenders from eligible tenderers through GOK e-procurement platform **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** by The Member Secretary for the following work:

Name of the work: Construction of platform for installation of KSPCB CAAQM Station with Integrated Noise Monitoring Terminal (INMT) at various locations at Chitradurga. **Approx Value of the work: Rs.24.71 lakhs**. All payments such as tender cost, EMD etc., shall be made in e-payment mode only.

For more details, please refer e-procurement web site: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Environmental Officer - 2

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10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"There is a lot of conversation about momentum in tournaments like this.... But I think it is more about finding out what the area of concern is for a certain side.

HEMANG BADANI, DC COACH

Harmanpreet Kaur

India stutter to 157/7 vs Proteas

DURBAN, PTI : India never got the momentum they needed to end up with 157 for seven in the Women's T20 series opener against South Africa here on Friday.

Put in to bat, India got off to a flier with Shafali Verma (34 off 20) leading the their charge.

Shafali struck five fours and a straight six off spinner Sune Luus in her cameo after being dropped at mid-off in the second over of the innings.

Her more accomplished opening partner Smriti Mandhana (13 off 14), did not last long and was caught at cover after failing to get the aerial distance on her drive off South Africa's lead pacer Ayabonga Khaka.

Brief scores: India: 157/7 in 20 overs (Shafali Verma 34, Jemimah Rodrigues 36, Harmanpreet Kaur 47; Ayabonga Khaka 3-16, Tumi Sekhukhune 2-27) vs South Africa.

Gill, pacers punish Knights

Captain scores 86 as Gujarat heap more misery on beleaguered Kolkata

AHMEDABAD, PTI

Shubman Gill's elegant 86 complemented a probing new-ball spell from Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj as Gujarat Titans registered a commanding five-wicket win over laggards Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League here on Friday.

Gill was in complete command, firing on all cylinders as he steered the Titans to their third win of the season. This was after the pace duo of Rabada (3/29) and Siraj (2/23) had ripped through the KKR top order, exploiting movement with the new ball to bowl them out for 180.

KKR's total was largely propped up by Cameron Green's fighting 79 off 55 balls, his first significant contribution with the bat this season. The former champions continue to remain winless in the ongoing edition.

The two powerplays told the tale of the match. While KKR limped to 37 for 3, Gill powered GT to a commanding 71 for 1, seizing early control of the chase.

Shubman Gill scored 86 off 55 balls in Gujarat Titans' successful run chase against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Friday. AFP

Chasing a below par total, Gill set the tone from the outset, striking three boundaries, including a pristine straight drive, and a six in the first three overs.

He then anchored the innings with poise, pacing his knock to perfection. His innings was peppered with eight fours and four sixes.

While KKR managed to pick up a few wickets, they were never able to stem the flow of runs or apply sustained pressure.

When Sai Sudharsan departed, Jos Buttler ensured there was no let-up, announcing his arrival by cracking a boundary off his first ball before following it up with a six and another four in quick succession.

Earlier, KKR were rocked early, losing three wickets in the first four overs. Rabada and Siraj bowled with precision, while Ashok Sharma (2/45) and Prasidh Krishna (1/32) provided able support from the other end.

Green, who found it hard to get going in the beginning, weathered the early storm before breaking free in the middle overs, smashing seven fours and four sixes in his 55-ball stay.

He stitched together a 55-run stand with Rovman Powell and followed it up with a 60-run partnership with Anukul Roy to give Kolkata Knight Riders something to fight for.

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS: Tim Seifert c Phillips b Rabada 19, Ajinkya Rahane c Rabada b Mohammed Siraj 0, Angkrish Raghuvanshi c Buttler b Rabada 8, Cameron Green c Buttler b Rashid Khan 79, Rovman Powell c Mohammed Siraj b Ashok Sharma 27, Anukul Roy c Buttler b Prasidh Krishna 9, Rinku Singh c Buttler b Rabada 1, Ramandeep Singh c Mohammed Siraj b Ashok Sharma 17, Sunil Narine c Phillips b Mohammed Siraj 0, Kartik Tyagi (run out) 6, Vaibhav Arora (not out) 0. Extras (B-4, LB-3, NB-1, W-6) 14. **TOTAL (all out, 20 overs) 180.**

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-21, 3-32, 4-87, 5-147, 6-148, 7-165, 8-166, 9-173.

Bowling: Mohammed Siraj 4-0-23-2, Kagiso Rabada 4-0-29-3, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-32-1, Ashok Sharma 4-0-45-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-44-1.

GUJARAT TITANS: Sai Sudharsan c Tyagi b Narine 22, Shubman Gill c Green b Arora 86, Jos Buttler c Green b Chakaravarthy 25, Washington Sundar c Tyagi b Chakaravarthy 13, Glenn Phillips c Rinku b Ramandeep 19, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 7, Shahrukh Khan (not out) 3. Extras (LB-2, W-4) 6. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 19.4 overs) 181.**

Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-95, 3-141, 4-158, 5-177.

Bowling: Vaibhav Arora 4-0-35-1, Kartik Tyagi 4-0-40-0, Anukul Roy 3-0-37-0, Sunil Narine 4-0-28-1, Varun Chakaravarthy 4-0-34-2, Ramandeep Singh 0.4-0-5-1.

Result: GT won by 5 wkts.

PoM: Shubman Gill.

Balanced SRH host resurgent CSK

HYDERABAD, PTI

Having unleashed two exciting pace prospects in Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain, a balanced Sunrisers Hyderabad will head into their IPL match against Chennai Super Kings with renewed confidence, here on Saturday.

Drafted in place of seasoned campaigners Harshal Patel and Jaydev Unadkat, the uncapped duo made an instant impact, reducing Rajasthan Royals to 9 for 5 inside the first three overs, pushing them to their first loss of the season.

The 24-year-old Vidarbha pacer Hinge has been the standout bowler after dismantling the Royals' top-order consisting Dhruv Jurel, Lhuandre Pretorius and skipper Riyan Parag in his fiery first two overs. He finished with 4/34.

Generating bounce from a back-of-a-length spot, Hinge was impressive, while Hussain, an unheralded 21-year-old from Bihar who was previously overlooked by Kolkata Knight Riders, complimented him well on debut.

Ruturaj Gaikwad

LIVE 7:30 PM

Using clever variations in the middle overs, Hussain also returned with four wickets as Rajasthan were bowled out for 159 while chasing 216.

The emergence of the young duo has lifted SRH's pace attack, which had been a concern early in the season, and brought better balance to a side otherwise loaded with batting firepower in Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen.

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Punjab Kings	5	4	0	1	9	1.067
Royal Challengers	5	4	1	0	8	1.503
Rajasthan Royals	5	4	1	0	8	0.889
Gujarat Titans	5	3	2	0	6	0.018
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	2	3	0	4	0.576
Delhi Capitals	4	2	2	0	4	0.322
Lucknow Super Giants	5	2	3	0	4	-0.804
Chennai Super Kings	5	2	3	0	4	-0.846
Mumbai Indians	5	1	4	0	2	-1.076
Kolkata Knight Riders	6	0	5	1	1	-1.149

Canada WC game under scrutiny after corruption claim

NEW DELHI, AFP: The International Cricket Council said on Friday it is investigating Cricket Canada over allegations of match corruption, including the team's loss to New Zealand at the recent T20 World Cup hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

The game in Chennai -- which Canada lost by eight wickets -- is under scrutiny following allegations of corruption highlighted in a documentary aired by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) on Thursday.

"The ACU (anti-corruption unit) is aware of the programme broadcast by CBC," Andrew Ephgrave, interim general manager of the ICC's Integrity Unit, said in a statement.

The documentary by the public broadcaster made wide-ranging accusations of corruption and poor governance against Canada Cricket.

In the Chennai game, suspicion is focused on the fifth over bowled by captain Dilpreet Bajwa during New Zealand's chase, according to the ESPN Cricinfo website.

Tickner stars in New Zealand victory

DHAKA, AFP: Paceman Blair Tickner took four quick wickets as New Zealand held their nerve to beat Bangladesh by 26 runs and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match one-day international series on Friday.

Chasing 248 on a slow surface at the Mirpur stadium in Dhaka, Bangladesh lost their last six wickets for just 37 runs and were bowled out for 221 off 48.3 overs.

Bangladesh were off to a shaky start after pacer Nathan Smith struck twice off consecutive deliveries in the third over, removing Tanzid Hasan Tamim (2) and Najmul Hossain Shanto for

Brief scores: New Zealand: 247/8 in 50 overs (Henry Nicholls 68, Will Young 30, Dean Foxcroft 59; Taskin Ahmed 2-50, Shoriful Islam 2-27, Rishad Hossain 2-44) bt Bangladesh: 221 all in 48.3 overs (Saif Hussain 57, Litton Das 46, Towhid Hridoy 55, Afif Hossain 27; Nathan Smith 3-45, Blair Tickner 4-40) by 26 runs.

Series: New Zealand lead 3-match series 1-0.

PoM: Dean Foxcroft.

Second ODI: April 20 (Mirpur).

RCB eye third win on the bounce

Confident Bengaluru side takes on smarting Delhi Capitals

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Before this season's IPL could start, lots of questions were asked about the Royal Challengers Bengaluru. How will the crown of being the defending champions for the first time weigh on them? Will the sale of the franchise affect their performances? Can the team reach the same heights as last year? Would veterans like Virat Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood be able to deliver in an energy-sapping tournament? And much more.

With one-third of the season gone — five games to be precise — the Royal Challengers have answered all those questions in such an emphatic fashion that there is genuine hope of them securing their spot in the playoffs, although there are plenty of miles to be covered and cricket to be played in a tournament where fortunes and momentum can swing rapidly.

The top and middle-order comprising Kohli (228), Phil Salt (139), Devdutt Padikkal (135) and Rajat Patidar (222) have come out firing all cylinders, with Kohli, despite battling illness in the previous two games, holding the Orange Cap. Each one of them, including finisher Tim David (147), has made significant contributions at various stages, giving the batting a brutal look.

In-form RCB skipper Rajat Patidar will be eyeing another dominant outing when his team hosts Delhi Capitals at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday. DH PHOTO/ KRISHNAKUMAR PS

LIVE 3:30 PM

In terms of bowling too — which was for a long time their Achilles Heel — they have hit the straps. The 36-year-old Bhuvneshwar has turned the clock back again with seven scalps, while the rest of the pack like Krunal Pandya (7), Jacob Duffy (6), Rasikh Dar (5), Suyash Sharma (4) and Hazlewood (3) have chipped in nicely for the Royal Challengers.

Now, they'll be hoping all of them click once again on Saturday at the Chinnaswamy Stadium when they take on a smarting Delhi Capitals in their first afternoon fixture of this season. While Royal Challengers arrive for the game buzzing with confidence following two rousing wins after the chastening defeat against Rajasthan Royals, Delhi check in with two successive defeats — one an avoidable one-run defeat to Gujarat Titans where David Miller refused a single off the penultimate ball and another a 23-run hammering at the hands of Chennai Super Kings.

Royal Challengers will be looking to follow the same template against Delhi, with Kohli likely to play anchor and the likes of Salt, Patidar and Padikkal expected to tee off from the word go. The batters have understood the tricky Chinnaswamy surface — it has been offering spongy bounce at the start before settling down nicely — better for the first time and they'll be hoping for another strong evening.

Delhi will be desperate to arrest their slide after a strong start. A key member in their first two wins was the ravishing knocks by 22-year-old Sameer Rizvi who cracked 70 not out and 90. Just when the sound of the UP all-rounder's talent started to grow louder, Rizvi has fluffed the lines, managing just 0 and 6 in his next two innings. Bizarre as it may sound, the youngster's two failures have had a direct impact on their two losses.

DC have a lot more talent — world-class in fact — in their line-up and they'll be hoping to rise up against a Royal Challengers unit playing some wonderful cricket.

Ponting lauds Arsh's work ethic

NEW DELHI, PTI

Punjab Kings head coach Ricky Ponting **(in pic)** dismissed talk of a rough patch for Arshdeep Singh, lauding his work ethic after the left-arm pacer set up the team's seven-wicket win over Mumbai Indians.

Arshdeep produced a sensational opening spell, dismissing Ryan Rickelton and Suryakumar Yadav before returning at the death overs to get rid of Sherfane Rutherford on Thursday night.

Arshdeep had a testing start to the IPL, going wicket-less in his first three matches, before bouncing back with figures of 2/50 and 3/22 against Sunrisers Hyderabad and Mumbai Indians, respectively.

"We talk about people setting the tone; the way Arsh set the tone in the first over, swung the ball around, and put them on the back foot was exceptional," Ponting said during the 'Dressing Room Diaries' after the match on Thursday.

"Arsh, I know you've been going through what you consider a rough patch but the rest of us don't think so," the former Australia skipper said.

"The work you put in over the last couple of days to be able to do this straight away tonight was the reward. To be on the mark from the first ball, get two early wickets, and then come back at the end to do what you normally do. It's a credit to your work," he added.

Lauding the bowling unit, Ponting singled out Shashank Singh's contributions in the middle overs.

"Well done to the bowling group. The ability to claw it back was key. It felt like they might get a few more than 200, but Shanky's (Shashank) couple of overs changed the momentum again."

Punjab chased down a victory target of 196 in just 16.3 overs with opener Prabhsimran Singh smashing an unbeaten 80 off 39 balls and captain Shreyas Iyer hammering a 35-ball 66.

"The batting, I'm not starting to run out of appreciation for what we're doing, but dear, we're batting well," Ponting said.

"Prabh, I need to praise you because you didn't get a lot of strike during the Powerplay. Most of your hard work had to be done outside of it, but you were so skillful, so calm, and so calculating. You're batting as well as I've ever seen you bat."

Bhinder fined Rs 1 lakh for PMOA protocol breach

NEW DELHI, PTI: BCCI has fined Rajasthan Royals team manager Romi Bhinder Rs 1 lakh for PMOA protocol breach of using his phone in the dugout besides issuing a warning following an unsatisfactory response to the board's showcause notice, its secretary Devajit Saikia said on Friday.

Romi Bhinder

The breach occurred during the IPL match between Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Guwahati on April 10.

The BCCI anti-corruption unit led by Sharad Kumar subsequently showcaused Bhinder asking for an explanation.

Saikia said the ACU found Bhinder guilty after not being satisfied with his response. As per the IPL Players and Match Officials Area (PMOA) protocol, use of phone is barred in the dugout but allowed in the dressing room.

"The team led by Sharad Kumar examined Bhinder's response and found him guilty. His response to the notice was unsatisfactory.

"He was found guilty of breaching the protocol. As it is a first time offence, a one lakh fine has been imposed and a warning has been issued," said Saikia.

"Acknowledging the lapse, Mr. Bhinder admitted to the offence and offered an unconditional apology," read an IPL statement.

Bhinder was found scrolling his smart phone with Vaibhav Sooryavanshi by his side.

Fit-again Hazlewood raring to strike it hard

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

At the start of the season, the Royal Challengers Bengaluru were fretting over the fitness of their lead pacer, Josh Hazlewood. Although it was offset with New Zealander Jacob Duffy stepping up beautifully with six wickets in the opening three games, including a Player of the Match performance (3/22) in the season opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad, the Challengers' management would have been praying silently for Hazlewood's full recovery from his Achilles tendon problem. And with reason too.

After rejoining the franchise for a second time during the November 2024 auction, where the club paid Rs 12.50 crore, Hazlewood has become an integral member of the side. Despite being perceived to be a Test-match bowler who relies largely on hitting the hard-length area, Hazlewood has achieved considerable success in cricket's most unforgiving format for bowlers.

Last season, Hazlewood was RCB's premier wicket-taker with 22 scalps in 12 games — the franchise feeling his absence dearly in the games that he missed in the middle of the season due to niggles. But when the 35-year-old returned just when RCB were in a rough patch, the fortunes of the side resurrected remarkably, which culminated in them winning the title for the first time.

After warming the benches for the opening three games this season, Hazlewood finally made his return against Rajasthan Royals, but it didn't go as per plans as Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Yashasvi Jaiswal took him and the rest of the RCB bowling attack to the cleaners. Great players always hit back following a failure, and Hazlewood showed what a priceless asset he is to RCB, producing a Player of the Match performance (1/20) in the last match against Lucknow Super Giants.

Josh Hazlewood's splendid return to action augurs well for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru. PTI

Looking fresh as a daisy at the pre-match press conference here on Friday ahead of the Delhi Capitals' battle, Hazlewood said he's raring to have a go. "It's always tough being at home doing rehab while cricket is going on, in particular an Ashes and a World Cup. So I was always keen to get back as soon as I could for IPL, but not at the same time rush it," said Hazlewood.

"So that's sort of how we've planned. Everything's gone to plan accordingly so far. The plan was to miss the first two and then play a game, and then obviously game four was so quickly back up to miss that and then play again the other night. So fingers crossed, our schedule's pretty good now."

When asked how he's so successful despite keeping things simple, Hazlewood said he just relies on his strengths. "I think leading into this tournament and then training, when we get the opportunity to train throughout the tournament, you're always working on different things, trying different things. We see different bowlers in our group have different styles of bowls, so I was just watching that, trying to copy that maybe or trying a different ball here and there.

"But I think at the same time you rely on your strengths, first and foremost. So obviously my strength is hitting the length, hitting it hard, it's not floating the ball up, it's not digging it in so it's making it hard for the batter to hit me off that length. That's obviously my strength, the batters know that. It's just about executing that first and foremost as best I can."

Titans sign Esterhuizen

NEW DELHI, PTI: South African wicketkeeper batter Connor Esterhuizen has been signed by Gujarat Titans as a replacement for Englishman Tom Banton, who has been ruled out of the Indian Premier League owing to a finger injury.

The 24-year-old Esterhuizen recently his international debut for South Africa against New Zealand in a five-match T20I series last month.

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DECCAN HERALD
Saturday, April 18, 2026

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Wknd. WELLNESS

Drink your morning juice as soon as it is made to maximise the impact of its nutrition content

SMART SIP

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

GET YOUR JUICE RIGHT

This is the season for coolers and what better than fresh fruit juice? While it is advisable to eat the whole fruit, sometimes the juice works better given the instant hydration and rejuvenation it offers on a hot day. As far as possible, go for juice freshly made rather than packaged ones that have preservatives. Also, avoid adding sugar.

HYDRATION WITH NUTRITION

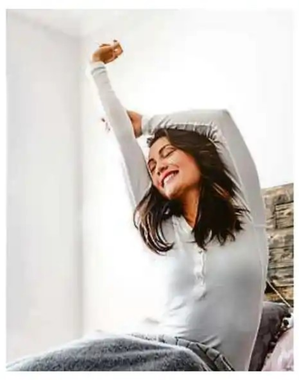
It is advisable to drink fruit juice first thing in the morning on an empty stomach. This helps in better assimilation of its nutrition content. You can add raw cucumber and carrot sticks for more hydration and nutrition. Citrus fruits are high in Vitamin C and help protect against summer infections.

Summer Bytes

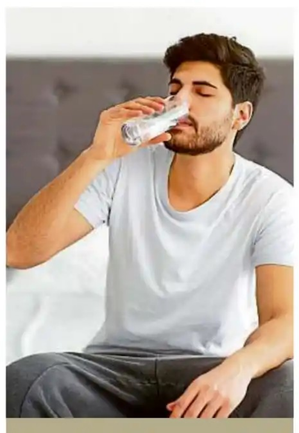
Habits to change

Summer is a season everyone looks forward to while in the grip of winter. It brings the warmth and sunshine you crave for. Now that the summer is here, why not change some routines for the better? While the heat brings its share of discomfort, you can always even it out with a refreshing change in your daily routine.

Rise early



The cold isn't around anymore to keep you under the blankets, dreading to get out. You can now start your days earlier. Plan on waking up at least half an hour earlier to begin with and gradually move to an ideal waking time. This is a great time to move into a healthier routine.



WATER FIRST

Drinking water first thing in the morning is a good habit. It strengthens metabolism and flushes out toxins. It rehydrates you after eight hours of sleep when you would have lost some water through perspiration in the summer months. Add a pinch of salt and a little lemon juice – they act as natural electrolytes.

LUKEWARM SHOWER

It is always a comfort to stand under a hot shower through the winter months. Change to showering in lukewarm water through the summer months. It keeps you fresh for a longer time through the day. Bathing in cooler water makes you more active and is good for your skin health.

Lifestyle and diet hold the key to healthy liver

The liver works silently and early signs of disease are often missed. Preventive care is therefore crucial. Clinical dietician **Jahnavi Bhograj** elaborates

The liver is the key organ in the metabolism of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins and minerals. It produces bile for digestion, and most of the nutrients absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract travel first to the liver for processing. The liver is also the largest organ, containing a significant portion of the body's blood supply. Diseases of this organ, therefore, markedly affect overall health.

Modern lifestyle and liver health

In today's lifestyle, conditions such as fatty liver, high triglycerides and gallbladder issues are increasingly common, even among young adults. Since the liver works silently, early signs are often missed, making preventive care essential.

What you need to do for liver health

Dietary changes: Switching to a whole, plant-based diet can help stabilise blood sugar levels and reduce excess fat accumulation in the liver. Include seasonal, locally-available foods such as fresh vegetables, greens, fruits, whole grains and pulses to ensure a steady supply of nutrients.

Weight management: Maintaining a healthy body weight plays a key role in reducing insulin resistance, which is closely linked to fatty liver. Regular movement, whether it is brisk walking, yoga or light strength training, helps muscles use glucose effectively and reduces fat storage.

Meal timings and fats: Keeping consistent meal timings and avoiding over-eating supports better metabolism. When it comes to fats, focus on quality rather than quantity. Use moderate amounts of oils like groundnut, sesame or mustard oil, and include natural fats from nuts and seeds. Avoid repeated reheating of oil, which can burden the liver.

Cut sugar and refined carbs: High triglycerides are often linked to excess sugar and refined carbohydrate intake. Cutting down on sugary beverages, bakery items and packaged snacks can significantly improve liver markers.

Regenerate liver cells through diet

The liver has a remarkable ability to repair itself when given the right support. A balanced diet rich in antioxidants helps reduce inflammation and supports regeneration. Include foods such as leafy greens, beetroot, carrot, citrus fruits and turmeric in daily meals.

Adequate protein intake is essential for repair. Simple combinations such as dal with rice, curd with millets or sprouts can provide good quality protein. Staying well-hydrated helps the body flush out toxins efficiently.

Diet and recovery from liver disease

For individuals recovering from liver conditions, nutrition needs to be gentle, yet nourishing. Small, frequent meals are often better tolerated. Easily digestible foods such as soft-cooked vegetables, khichdi, idli and curd-based preparations can be included.

Salt restriction may be necessary in certain conditions, especially when fluid retention is present. Processed and packaged foods should be limited as they often contain hidden sodium.

Don'ts to keep in mind

Carbohydrate and fat intake: Avoid very low carbohydrate diets that are high in fats and animal protein, as they can place additional stress on the liver. Rapid weight loss regimen should also be avoided, as it may increase the risk of gallbladder disease and disturb fluid and electrolyte balance.

Avoid alcohol: Alcohol consumption, even in moderate amounts, can aggravate liver damage over time and is best avoided.

Supplements: Be cautious with supplements. Always check labels for excessive doses of fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E and K, added sugar or unregulated herbal extracts, which may harm the liver if taken without guidance.

Sports drinks: They are often marketed as healthy, but many contain high amounts of sugar and artificial additives. For most people, especially those with sedentary lifestyle, plain water or natural options such as buttermilk and coconut water are better choices.

Right lifestyle choices

Lifestyle choices play a powerful role in improving metabolic health and weight maintenance. Simple habits such as reducing processed sugar, limiting alcohol intake, staying well-hydrated and regularly monitoring health can make a meaningful difference. Consistency matters more than quick fixes and small daily steps often lead to long-term benefits for overall well-being. Always remember, guidance from experts helps you choose the safest path for your health journey.

APRIL 19 WORLD LIVER DAY

Your skin can signal liver disease

The skin reflects internal health and can indicate liver dysfunction, says dermatologist **Dr Mukta Sachdev**

In clinical dermatology, the skin is often the first organ to reveal what may be silently evolving within. Over the past 30 years, I have seen numerous patients in whom seemingly routine skin complaints were, in fact, early indicators of underlying liver dysfunction.

The liver has a profound influence on skin health through its roles in metabolism, detoxification and protein synthesis. When these functions are impaired, the effects are not always dramatic at first - but they are often visible, if one knows what to look for.

While jaundice is the most recognised sign, it is rarely the earliest. More often, patients present with generalised itching without a primary rash, particularly in cholestatic conditions. This intense itch can be persistent, distressing and frequently misdiagnosed as simple dryness or allergy.

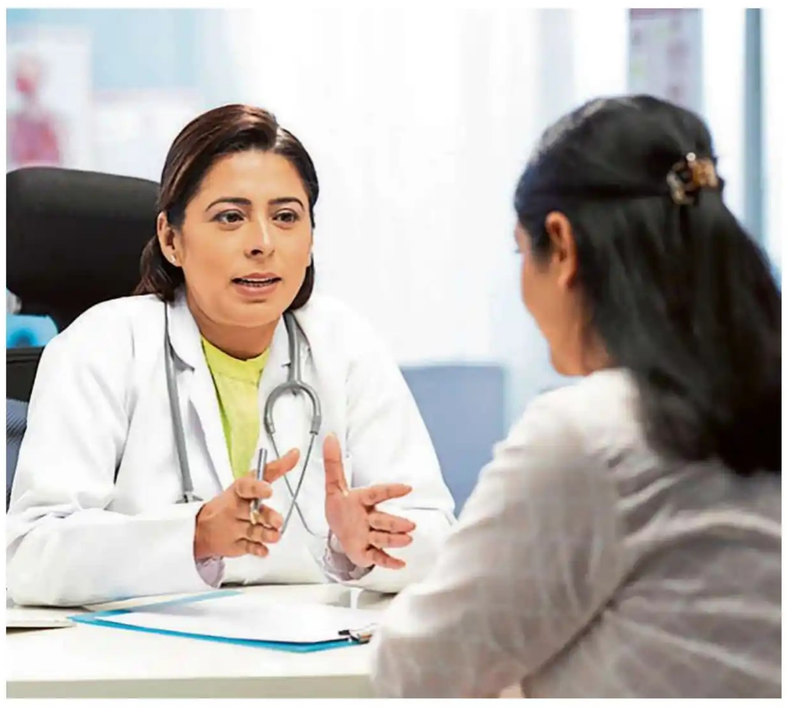
Another pattern I commonly observe is subtle, but progressive pigmentation, especially in photo-exposed and flexural areas. These changes are often dismissed as tanning or cosmetic concerns, but may reflect underlying metabolic or hepatic imbalance.

Vascular signs such as multiple spider angiomas on the face or upper trunk, and palmar erythema, should not be overlooked. With advancing dysfunction, the skin may become thin, fragile and prone to bruising, and nail changes such as Terry's nails may appear.

Importantly, it is rarely a single sign that is diagnostic - it is the pattern of findings that should raise suspicion.

In recent years, I have also observed a growing trend that deserves attention. The widespread use of protein powders, gym supplements, nutraceuticals, collagen formulations and high-dose vitamins, often without medical guidance, can place an additional burden on the liver. Many of these products are perceived as harmless, but are not always well-regulated, and their long-term effects - especially in combination - are not fully understood.

Similarly, fad diets, including excessive consumption of specific foods or 'health' ingredients such as turmeric, carrot or concentrated vegetable preparations, can lead to metabolic imbalances. While these foods are beneficial in moderation, extreme or unbalanced intake may contribute to skin changes such as unusual pigmentation or yellowing, and in some cases, may indirectly stress liver function.



Bringing memories back to life...

Memory Lane

Sushim Gotadki with a Studebaker he restored and a 1961 model Buick he brought back to life

There are stories about the lengths people go to for their vintage cars. 45-year-old Sushim Gotadki from Belagavi actually altered his house for one. To fulfil a childhood dream of seeing a car inside his house while having breakfast, he literally built a hydraulic lift from the ground floor to the first. There sits a 1929 Ford Model A. He has been working on this Ford for the past six years. "Initially I thought it would take me a few months", he says. "I need a skilled carpenter to create its seats and then it will run", he adds with a smile.

A black and white Studebaker President, a just-painted red Triumph, another 1930 Ford, a Fiat and a Buick are his proud possessions. As with many die-hard vintage car lovers, Sushim, a mechanical engineer, works on his cars himself. His next project is a rusty Jeep Mini Truck which he plans to restore soon.

Every Sunday morning in Kolkata, before the city wakes up, the old garage behind an old bungalow comes alive. The shutters creak open, sunlight filters in through the dust, and there she stands - faded, dignified and waiting. A 1950s Hindustan Ambassador, her once-cream body now the colour of forgotten letters.

Raghav Moolchand, a 30-year-old textile businessman, runs his hand gently over the bonnet. "We'll get you there," he murmurs. No one really knows when this began for him. Perhaps it was the stories his grandfather narrated of long drives without highways, of cars that had personality and of journeys that meant something. "We have plenty of vintage cars around us, but not all can be restored. Even those that can, need plenty of spare parts, lots of garage work and tons of patience" says Raghav.

Restoring vintage cars is an emotional calling. **Swatee Jog** finds out why people spend a fortune on getting an old rusty rolling again

Bringing vintage cars back to life

Restoring vintage cars in India is not a hobby. It is a calling. A stubborn, expensive, deeply emotional calling. Raghav's journey started, like Sushim's, with a hunt originating out of passion. Not for the car - those can still be found in old estates, government auctions or quietly decaying in small towns - but for parts. Parts are stories scattered across the country.

Roshan Desai, a garage owner from Mumbai who helps dozens of passionate car-owners, says, "A carburettor might come from a scrap yard in Mumbai, discovered after hours of digging through metal carcasses. Original seat fabric? Perhaps from an old textile merchant in Jaipur who doesn't quite understand why someone wants a design no one has asked for in 40 years. A missing emblem might arrive wrapped in old newspaper from Chennai, sourced through a chain of phone calls, WhatsApp groups and sheer luck". Every part has a journey. Every part has a story.

Sourcing is the secret

The garage becomes a world of its own. There are no straight paths here. Manuals are scarce, mechanics who understand these machines even scarcer. The old masters - the ones who could tune an engine by ear - are retiring, their knowledge fading quietly with them.

So, Raghav learns. And Sushim works by hand. He learns how to listen to an engine breathe. How to coax life into a stubborn piston. How to improvise when a part simply doesn't exist anymore. A washer becomes hand-cut. A gasket is traced and recreated. Sometimes, something from a different car is adapted, reshaped and persuaded into belonging.

There are days of triumph - the first time the engine turns over after months of silence. Money flows out like water. Friends shake their heads. "Why not just buy a new car?", they ask.

Raghav smiles. "They don't understand", he says. Because this is not about owning a car. It is about reclaiming time. Across India, there are others like him. In Delhi, Gurcharan Singh Rawat, a 70-year-old retired army officer spends his evenings restoring a Willys Jeep from the 1940s. In Pune, young software engineer Darshan Thombre pours his weekends into reviving a forgotten Fiat 1100 Delight once owned by his family. They are strangers, yet connected through forums, late-night calls, shared frustrations and rare victories. They speak a language only they understand.

"Original or restored?" "Matching numbers?" "White wall tyres?" "Where did you source the tail lights?" And then, one day, it happens. After months, sometimes years, the car is ready.

Both Sushim and Raghav take their cars out for a drive. People stop, smile. Some take pictures. Children point. Seniors smile knowingly, as if they've just met an old friend again. Last month, Sushim had a senior honking as he followed him. At the signal, the gentleman peeped out and smiled at the Studebaker, something he had owned and driven in America decades ago. And in that moment, he understands the true reward. It's not about restoring a machine, it's all about bringing back the memory to life.

DECCAN HERALD
Saturday, April 18, 2026

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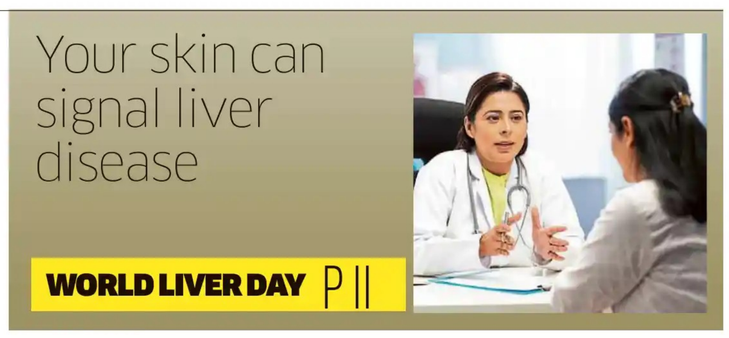

ADVERTORIAL & PROMOTIONAL LIFESTYLE FEATURE

SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM! PAGE 02

BEAT THE SUMMER BLUES PAGE 03

Summer staples

Jayanthi Madhukar presents four outfits that should be a part of your wardrobe this season

Casual shirt

Soft linen and cotton shirts are welcome in summer. Be it solid colours or embellished with prints, shirts look good with trousers, jeans, shorts and skirts. Longer, waist-length shirts could be worn with leggings as well as wide-legged trousers or jeans. Short shirts are usually paired with shorts or loose trousers and jeans.

A casual half-tuck of the shirt gives structure to an otherwise loose silhouette – if you have paired the shirt with loose-fitted trousers. Or else, roll back the sleeves for a laid-back, casual look. You can also pair a tank-top with a cotton or linen shirt for a stylish summer look.

Flowy dress

Cotton and linen dresses are comfort go-to fashion wear in summer. High-waisted tailored styles, sleeveless dresses or A-line buttoned-down dresses with relaxed cuts work well with sandals. A side slit elevates the casual look into a stylish outfit while keeping the breezy summer vibe.

Accessorise a plain dress in cotton or linen with some heavy neckwear or earrings to create a casually stylish look. You can combine a long dress with minimal accessories, sneakers or simple sandals. Consider a lightweight blazer or denim jacket for the evenings.

Versatile skirt

Cotton skirts are a summer staple, prized for their comfort. Breathable and lightweight, it is especially welcome during humid days when heavier fabrics feel stifling.

The silhouettes vary widely, and this summer, all of them are good - be it long, flowing skirts or mid-length styles and short mini versions. Their versatility is a part of the appeal - they can be paired with a button-down shirt, simple T-shirt or a spaghetti top.

For a casual look, pair the skirt with open-toe sandals or colourful flip-flops.

Cool trousers

Cotton and linen trousers are the ultimate summer multi-taskers, offering style and structure without heat and discomfort. Opt for high-waisted, wide-leg cuts and pair them with a tucked-in blouse or a cotton shirt to elongate the silhouette.

Roll the cuffs, add sandals or loafers, and let the natural texture do the styling. A favourite style-hack - pair high-waisted linen or cotton trousers with a slim belt and partially tuck in a lightweight blouse or t-shirt.

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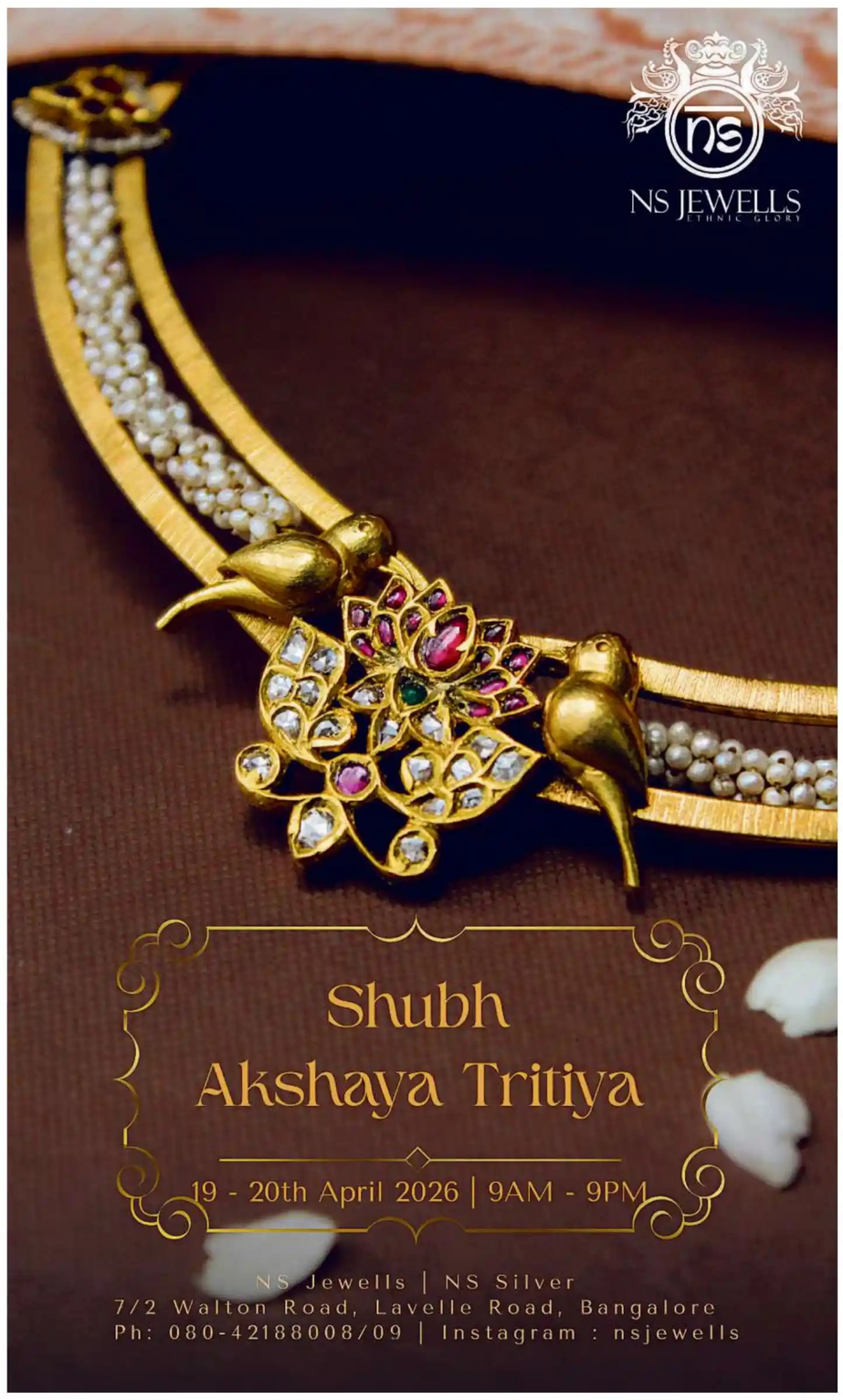
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Good habits keep your liver strong and fit

World Liver Day
April 19

Dr Poorna Chandra K S, Chief Consultant Medical Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist, **Sagar Hospitals**, explains why this resilient organ gets diseased and how you can protect it

Dr Poorna Chandra K S

While every organ in the body has a role to play, your liver works across many functions. The absorbed food first comes to the liver and is processed by it, and then sent into blood circulation. It is a storage organ, acting as an energy source in times of poor food intake.

The liver generates and exports proteins and lipids which are formed from the absorbed food. It metabolizes drugs and chemicals consumed and prepares them for excretion. The liver generates the factors needed for blood coagulation.

This vital organ works closely with the gut immune system and is the first line of defense against organisms entering through the gut. It physically sieves blood and primes the immune system to fight the organisms.

The liver also works as a minor endocrine organ. It can regenerate even if two-thirds of it is removed – this is the basis for live liver donation.

Causes of liver disease

As the liver is exposed to many chemicals and bugs, and acts as your first line of defense, it gets inflamed at times. However, its strong regenerative capacity ensures it heals quickly without affecting your health significantly. Yet, this capacity has its limits and the liver can get diseased when it is injured continuously and heavily.

The most common causes of liver injury are alcohol, chemicals (as contaminants, poisons), drugs (prescribed, self medications, illicit), infections, when too much fat is deposited (as with obese people) and when blood supply to it is compromised (in case of heart failure or low blood pressure). These lead to liver failure and its complications such as jaundice, limb and abdominal swelling, hepatic coma, bleeding (gastrointestinal and otherwise), compromising quality and longevity of life.

Prevention

Vaccinate against viruses and follow good personal, food and sexual hygiene. Vaccines are now available against Hepatitis A, B and E. The Hepatitis B vaccine prevents liver cancer.

Avoid alcohol consumption and drug abuse/self-medication. Even a single drink can be harmful and the harm is not limited to the liver alone. Self-prescribed medications, many health/protein supplements, medications from unqualified people and drug abuse cause liver disease and silently damage the liver.

An active lifestyle and weight management prevent liver disease. Obesity or metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) is becoming the most common cause of liver disease, liver transplant and liver cancer world-wide. The treatment is simply weight loss and an active lifestyle. Your body mass index should be below 23 kg/sqm and waist diameter less than 28 inches in females and 32 inches in males.

Effective management of diabetes, hypertension and blood cholesterol levels prevent liver disease.

Effective treatment for Hepatitis B and C is available. Hence, early identification and treatment are crucial to prevent cirrhosis and subsequent liver cancer.

On this World Liver Day, pledge to protect this multi-faceted and dynamic organ of your body.

Wknd. DELIGHT

To make your ice cream creamier use milk that's high in fat content. Ideally, use the full cream milk variant

CREAMY TREAT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

SOFT CREAMY ICE CREAM

If you are making ice cream at home without using egg yolk, improve its texture by adding liquid sugar and a small amount of alcohol, both of which will prevent ice crystals from forming and stop the ice cream from freezing. Or, whip the mixture over an ice bath until it becomes thick (in about five minutes). Spoon the mixture into an ice cube tray. Before serving, process the ice cream ice cubes in a blender with a little milk to create a creamy, soft ice cream.

KEEP IT FRESH

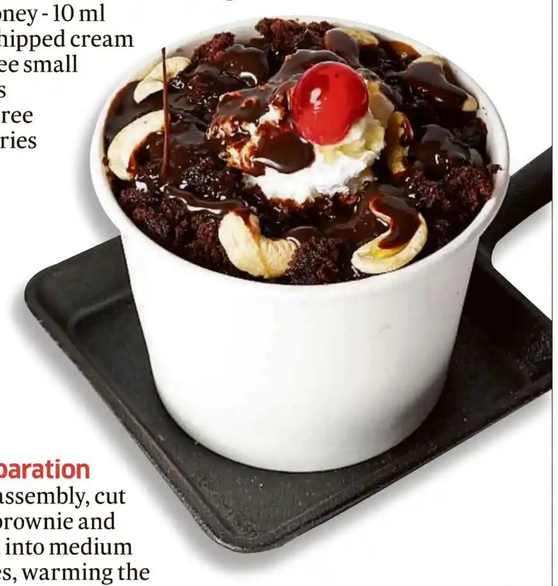
If you need to keep your ice cream fresh for a few days, place it at the back of the freezer (the coldest spot). Always store ice cream in an airtight container. You can pack the container in a plastic wrapper additionally to ensure it remains airtight. You can also use a freezer bag for added protection.

Death by Chocolate with Kulfi

This is a layered dessert that combines warm brownie, homemade malai kulfi and rich toppings for a single-serve indulgence.

What you need

- Brownie - 65 gm
- Chocolate sauce - 100 ml
- Malai kulfi - 140 gm
- Roasted cashew nuts - 20 gm
- Honey - 10 ml
- Whipped cream - three small shots
- Three cherries



Preparation

For assembly, cut the brownie and kulfi into medium cubes, warming the brownie for 30 seconds. In a 500 ml container, layer half the brownie, then half the kulfi, followed by the remaining brownie and kulfi.

Drizzle honey and hot chocolate sauce over the top, add three small shots of whipped cream, place a cherry on the cream and finish with roasted cashew nuts for a rich, visually-striking dessert that's ready to enjoy immediately.

PIC COURTESY: AMARA DESSERTS

Top the ice cream!

If you have a simple flavour of ice cream but want to make it look fancy, all you need to do is decorate it with toppings. From classic chocolate syrup, caramel drizzle and sprinkles to nuts, fresh fruits and cookie crumbles, each topping creates a unique taste experience. Whipped cream, fudge or a cherry on top adds a finishing touch, while unconventional options such as gulkhand, crushed meetha paan or saffron can elevate ice cream into a gourmet dessert.

The right combination of toppings not only enhances flavour but also makes every serving indulgent.

Scream for ICE CREAM!

Ice cream is the best way to beat the heat in summer. **Jayanthi Madhukar** gets executive chef **Banshbahadur Nishad** to share two exotic recipes you can try at home

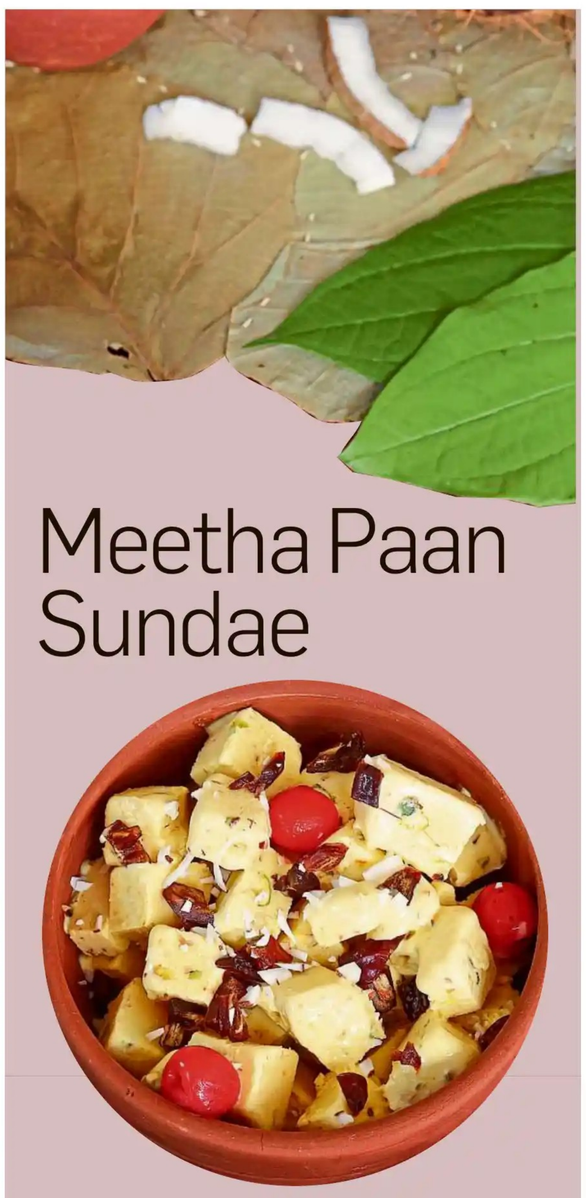
As the mercury soars, ice creams are more than summer treats. The frozen sweetness offers respite from the blazing sun and are must-have comfort offerings for family and friends. From classic vanilla and chocolate to exotic combinations such as matcha, saffron and caramel sea salt, ice creams can suit any palate. You can serve them plain or with cakes or fruits.

The simple joy of eating a scoop of ice cream is stuff made for memories and nostalgia. This beloved dessert, with creamy texture and sweet flavour, is what you would associate with a hot summer's day.

To make your ice cream treat even more special, executive chef Banshbahadur Nishad has two recipes which you can try at home with kulfi.

Tongue-tickling kulfi

Boil 400 ml of full-fat milk on medium heat, stirring often until it reduces to one-third its volume (about 20–30 minutes), then add sugar to taste, stir until dissolved and freeze in moulds for 6–8 hours until firm.



Meetha Paan Sundae

PIC COURTESY: AMARA DESSERTS

This is a modern, layered take on the much-loved Indian after-meal treat, combining the sweet, aromatic flavours of meetha paan with cake, paan kulfi and rabdi.

What you need

- Vanilla cake - one piece (cut horizontally into two layers)
- Paan kulfi - 140 gm
- Rabdi - 50 ml
- Gulkhand - 20 gm
- One date piece (finely-chopped)
- Three cherries (halved)
- Tutti frutti - 5 gm
- Desiccated coconut - 10 gm

Preparation

To make paan kulfi, follow the kulfi recipe given. Just put eight chopped paan (betel) leaves into the reduced milk along with the sugar.

For assembly, take a piece of vanilla cake (sliced horizontally) and place it at the base of a sundae glass or bowl. Spread 20 gm of gulkhand over the cake, sprinkle finely-chopped dates and layer 140 gm of paan kulfi carefully on top. Pour 50 ml of rabdi evenly over the kulfi, then gently place the second cake piece on top.

Finish by garnishing with halved cherries, five gm of tutti frutti and 10 gm of desiccated coconut, creating a visually-stunning dessert that transforms traditional paan into a multi-layered indulgence.

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

WHERE DID YOU GO?
I TOOK A WALK TO CLEAR MY HEAD
IS IT CLEAR NOW?!
VERY
GREG + MORT WALKER
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1/19

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MJOUB

FREYO

TENNYI

LIOIVN

Today's Guest JUMBLER is ROBB ARMSTRONG creator of JumpStart

I GIVE UP! WHERE'S THE WORST PLACE TO HIDE IN A HOSPITAL?
THE ICU (I SEE YOU)! GET IT?
HA!
11-13
WHEN THE NURSE TOLD THE PATIENT WITH THE BROKEN ARM A JOKE, HE APPRECIATED HER-

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

Answers: When the nurse told the patient with the broken arm a joke, he appreciated her — FUNNY BONE

JUMBO FOYER NINETY VIOLIN

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HITORI-142

2	4	5	2	1	7	2	1
4	2	3	8	2	5	1	6
7	6	4	4	5	2	3	1
5	2	7	1	2	6	2	3
1	2	2	3	7	1	6	2
6	1	2	7	2	3	4	8
1	1	6	2	4	7	1	5
2	3	1	5	2	2	8	2

SOLUTION for HITORI-142

■	8	2	■	5	1	3	■
5	■	7	4	2	6	■	1
4	8	3	■	7	2	1	6
■	6	1	7	3	■	2	■
3	■	6	■	1	7	■	5
1	3	■	5	■	4	6	7
6	1	5	2	8	3	■	4
■	2	■	1	■	5	4	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 143

EASY

ACROSS
1 Scum (5)
6 Treatise (5)
9 Relevant circumstances (7)
10 Race meeting (5)
11 Indicate (5)
12 Underneath (5)
13 Stuck (7)
15 Single (3)
17 Dregs (4)
18 Creatures (6)
19 Facial hair (5)
20 Young bird (6)
22 Yield (4)
24 Fish eggs (3)
25 Exhaust (7)
26 Condition (5)
27 Take unlawfully (5)
28 Hesitate (5)
29 Young hare (7)
30 Donkeys (5)
31 Informs (5)

DOWN
2 Dwell (6)
3 Gains a point (6)
4 Drunkard (3)
5 War-horse (5)
6Revealed (7)
7 Store (4)
8 Canvas roof (6)
12 Brimless cap (5)
13 Change (5)
14 Border (5)
15 Beginning (5)
16 County (5)
18 Courageous (5)
19 Insects (7)
21 Main arteries (6)
22 Invent (6)
23 Maiden (6)
25 Freshwater mammal (5)
26 Offer of discounts (4)
28 Favourite (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 The one question? (5)
6 It's a bit doubtful getting a jump start in a moment (5)
9 What a golfer aims to do for half an hour in a bad hotel (4,3)
10 Dark until changed (5)
11 Go up note by note? (5)
12 A questionable stinger in the end (5)
13 Peter's vendors (7)
15 Sound and smell (3)
17 As a try out, one could have tea on it (4)
18 Jam, yes, but not much butter (6)
19 Form untidy heaps (5)
20 Quick - what happened to Preston North End? (6)
22 Trio not sighted, as children know (4)
24 Turning his back, teacher takes a bit of a risk (3)
25 Nat rose to become a legislator (7)
26 Written by a misguided deputy, no union leader (5)
27 Should she use stronger elastic? (3-2)
28 All to give a child a name (5)
29 Bad man, but he may get the right result (7)
30 A man with a mole, maybe (5)
31 One team standing out from the rest? (5)

DOWN
2 Add to the difficulties of a female monarch (6)
3 Cold as we're told a foreign country is (6)
4 Like an emergency line on the house telephone initially? (3)
5 The old people seem'd upset (5)
6 In fairness, it's merely hard water (7)
7 Will it scratch away? (4)
8 Having no further capacity in one's occupation? (4,2)
12 This character, out of breath, wildly spread the word (2,3)
13 Measures to encourage climbers? (5)
14 Arkle, perhaps, historically famous in sport (5)
15 The custom of going to Southend a little? (5)
16 You need money to feed one (5)
18 Rushed out of the way with rapidity (5)
19 A supporter placed so as not to move (4,3)
21 Increasing abuse of gin, sir (6)
22 Does most studiously in the army? (6)
23 No great fighter in the cod war! (6)
25 At bottom, they support our MPs (5)
26 Tip right into a vessel (4)
28 Arrange to eat a meal (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 143

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Which 6, J-iffy 9, Hole-ou-t 10, Unlit 11, Scale 12, Death 13, Sellers 15, Hum 17, Tray 18, Scrape 19, Shape 20, Presto 22, Mice 24, Sir (rev.) 25, Senator 26, Typed 27, Pin-up 28, Tot-al 29, R-ustler 30, A-gent 31, A-side.
DOWN: 2, Hind-ER 3, Chilly (Chile) 4, Ho-t 5, Medes 6, Just-ice 7, Itch 8, Full up 12, Dr W-h-o 13, Steps 14, Laker 15, H-a-bit 16, Meter 18, Spe-E-d 19, Stay put 21, Rising 22, Majors 23, Coward 25, Seats 26, Tu-R-n 28, Tea.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Dross 6, Essay 9, Context 10, Ascot 11, Point 12, Below 13, Adhered 15, One 17, Lees 18, Beings 19, Beard 20, Eaglet 22, Cede 24, Roe 25, Overtax 26, State 27, Steal 28, Pause 29, Leveret 30, Asses 31, Tell.
DOWN: 2, Reside 3, Scores 4, Sot 5, Steed 6, Exposed 7, Stow 8, Awning 12, Beret 13, Alter 14, Hedge 15, Onset 16, Essex 18, Brave 19, Beetles 21, Aortas 22, Create 23, Damsel 25, Otter 26, Sale 28, Pet.

DH DECCAN HERALD **Wknd.**

Beat the summer blues

Are you looking for some rejuvenating weekend action to bounce back? **Shilpi Madan** has some ideas

Summer Reset

The hot summer days can sap your energy. Your usual little walk post lunch with friends can't happen in the harsh summer sun. And you wait for the weekend break to reboot. Are you tired of the usual mall and movie gambit? Try a different spin for the summer months to hang out with your friends. Here are a few cool options.

Beat the blues

Dip into the water in your fun swimwear to blend in exercise and time with buddies. The cool blue works like a charm in building easy camaraderie, good exercise and time well-spent, especially in the early mornings when you can do without the heavy crowd.

Russian art, gigs

Matryoshka doll painting is picking up on the trend circuit. The Russian doll – that comes as a set of tiny dolls placed inside one another – makes the joy of painting fine details come alive. Team up with a like-minded friend and sign up.

Concerts are a rage with the annual calendar bringing in a truckload of foreign and Indian artistes on the stage to root for. Pick your favourites and enjoy the tunes.

Heritage walk

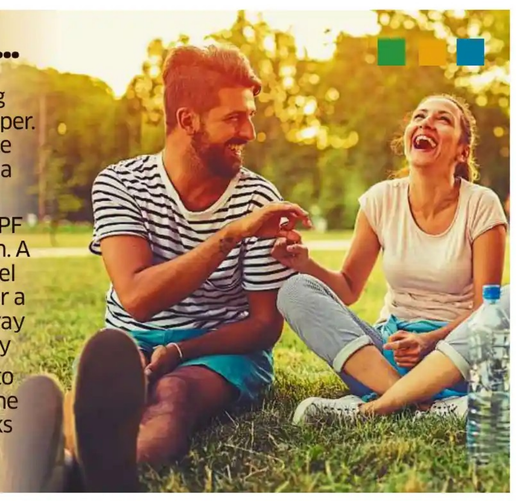
Sign up for a heritage walk in the neighbourhood that ends in a yummy breakfast at a cosy cafe. Make space for a bit of leaf-peeping and birdsong over the weekend with your buddies as you cycle or walk through a national park or slice of forest.

A weekend getaway or a shot of off-roading works well.

Some handy hints...

- Stay hydrated as moving out in the sun can be a sapper. Stock up on water and juice including chilled kombucha before you zip off
- Keep a sunscreen with SPF 50 handy for reapplication. A water-resistant lotion or gel works best. Make space for a body sunscreen too, in spray format, that's easy to apply

Be spontaneous. Swing into plans last minute - that's the fun of it. Impromptu breaks work the best



Liver transplant offers a second chance at life

Some liver diseases are life-threatening and the only treatment is transplant. **Dr Mahesh Gopasetty**, Head of Department and Lead Consultant – Liver Transplant and HPB Surgeon, **Gleneagles BGS Hospital** (a Fortis network hospital), Kengeri, Bengaluru, answers some frequently-asked questions about liver transplant and its outcome

Gleneagles BGS Hospital KENGERI, BENGALURU | Fortis NETWORK HOSPITAL

World Liver Day
April 19

Around 10 per cent of the world's population suffers from one form or another of liver disease. Most people suffer from mild forms of liver disease, while about 10 per cent of them have life-threatening conditions. A large number of such patients will need liver transplant for survival. While patients with kidney failure have dialysis to sustain them for a long time, with or without kidney transplant, there is no such option for those with liver failure. The only meaningful treatment for long-term survival is liver transplant.

Here are some frequently-asked questions about liver transplant:

WHAT IS LIVER TRANSPLANT?
A damaged liver is removed from the patient and replaced with a healthy liver. This process is called liver transplant.

WHO CAN DONATE A LIVER?
There are two types of organ donors – cadaveric donor and living donor.

A cadaveric organ donor is one whose liver is harvested after his brain or cardiac death. A person who suffers from irreversible brain damage following head trauma or bleeding in the brain and has no hope of survival is declared brain dead following tests prescribed under the Organ Donation Act of the Government of India.

A living donor is usually a family member of the patient. A living donor should ideally be between 18 and 50 years of age, healthy, and should meet the criteria set by the doctors treating the patient. A donor can donate up to 70 per cent of the liver without any challenges to both short-term and long-term health. The remaining 30 per cent of the liver will grow and return to 100 per cent of its original size in around two months.

Donors do not require long-term tests or medications. They can return to work after a couple of weeks of rest and will have no lifestyle restrictions.

WHAT IS THE OUTCOME OR SUCCESS RATE OF LIVER TRANSPLANT?
The success rate in case of liver transplant (recipient surgery) is over 90 per cent, provided the procedure is performed when the patient is relatively stable and infection-free. The risk to the donor is under 0.20 per cent.

Living donor liver surgery is extremely safe in the hands of an experienced team. A vast majority of donors do not require blood transfusion and are discharged from the hospital within a week. At the time of discharge, they will be well enough to take care of themselves.

ARE THERE ANY LIFESTYLE RESTRICTIONS FOLLOWING LIVER TRANSPLANTATION?
The recipient should lead life with common sense - avoid unclean air, water and food, and stay physically and mentally active. Regular moderate exercise helps maintain good health. Recipients will need to take a few life-saving medications for life to prevent rejection.

Women should avoid pregnancy for the first two years after transplant. Before planning pregnancy, they must consult their doctor to modify medications. They can have an active sex life.

Dr Mahesh Gopasetty

IS LIVER TRANSPLANT PERFORMED ON CHILDREN AS WELL?
Yes. Certain liver diseases such as biliary atresia, hepatoblastoma, Wilson's disease, tyrosinemia and a few metabolic disorders require liver transplant for meaningful long-term survival.

Performing transplant early in children gives them the opportunity to catch up on growth and development. After transplant, they can eat an unrestricted diet and lead a normal life. They can attend school, play with peers, visit places of worship and have families of their own in the future.

WHAT ARE THE COMMON SIGNS OF LIVER DISEASE?
The liver is a forgiving organ. It has more than 70 per cent capacity of what is required. This means that until more than 70–80 per cent of the liver is damaged, a person may not have any symptoms.

The first signs of liver damage are often subtle, such as weakness and swollen legs. Jaundice is usually a late sign. Patients may also develop fluid accumulation in the abdomen (ascites), vomiting of blood and passing blood in stools (melena).

Live liver donors

- Healthy individuals in age group of 18-50 years can donate
- Up to 70 per cent of the liver can be donated
- After the surgery the remaining 30 per cent grows back to its original size in around two months
- Donor's lifestyle isn't affected by donation
- Risk to donor is under 0.20 per cent

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd.

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

HEALTHY SUMMER COOLER

Tender coconut water does a lot more than hydrating you on a hot day. It confers many health benefits. It is known to regulate blood pressure and is good for cardiac health. It acts as a natural diuretic in the summer. It is high in antioxidants and supports skin health. It helps prevent stomach infections common in summer.

Summer Sips

Blissful tender coconut!

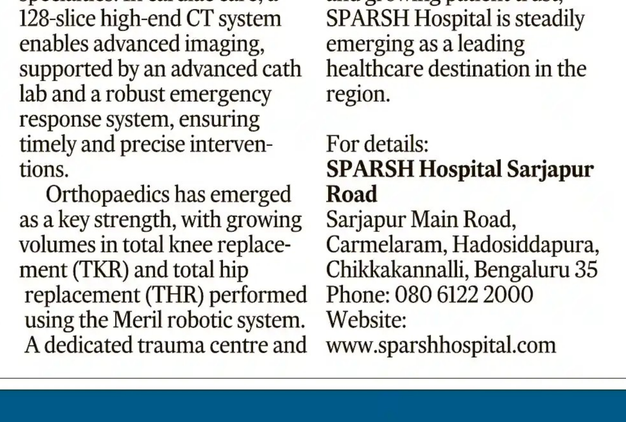
This is the season to stay well-hydrated and cool. Make tender coconut water your daily staple till the summer lasts

- Stop by a vendor and drink it fresh. It's a great filler between meals too. Slightly chilled is terrific you can do it in the middle of your hectic day.
- If you are low on energy, add a squeeze of lemon along with a pinch of salt and a teaspoon of honey. Your tender coconut water becomes a natural electrolyte.
- Plain tender coconut water infused with mint is a great summer cooler. The mint aids digestion too.
- You can get a little adventurous and blend your coconut water with fruits to make it a smoothie.

SPARSH Hospital sets the benchmark for multi-specialty care in south-east Bengaluru

In under 200 days since its launch, SPARSH Hospital, Sarjapur Road, has rapidly established itself as a trusted centre for advanced multi-specialty and emergency care in south-east Bengaluru. Driven by strong clinical outcomes and growing patient trust, the hospital has already touched over 30,000 lives, conducted over 1,500 surgeries, managed more than 6,000 emergencies and supported more than 5,170 mothers and babies.

Patients from over 180 pin codes are seeking treatment at the hospital, spanning east and south Bengaluru as well as neighbouring districts in Tamil Nadu, reflecting rising patient trust and accessibility.



Robotic surgery for total knee replacement enhances outcomes

The 250-bed, state-of-the-art facility is designed to deliver both clinical excellence and patient comfort. With advanced operating theatres, critical care units and efficient clinical pathways, the hospital ensures seamless care delivery. A team of experienced, internationally-trained specialists anchors its commitment to globally-benchmarked care.

With a strong focus on complex and critical care, the hospital is equipped with advanced technology across specialties. In cardiac care, a 128-slice high-end CT system enables advanced imaging, supported by an advanced cath lab and a robust emergency response system, ensuring timely and precise interventions.

Orthopaedics has emerged as a key strength, with growing volumes in total knee replacement (TKR) and total hip replacement (THR) performed using the Meril robotic system. A dedicated trauma centre and stroke-ready emergency unit further reinforce its critical care capabilities.

The hospital has also developed expertise in renal transplant care, performing complex procedures including living donor, deceased donor, swap and ABO-incompatible transplants. With dedicated centres for gastro sciences and plastic surgery, along with a specialised women and child floor, SPARSH Hospital offers comprehensive, end-to-end care across specialties.

With a strong foundation and growing patient trust, SPARSH Hospital is steadily emerging as a leading healthcare destination in the region.

For details:
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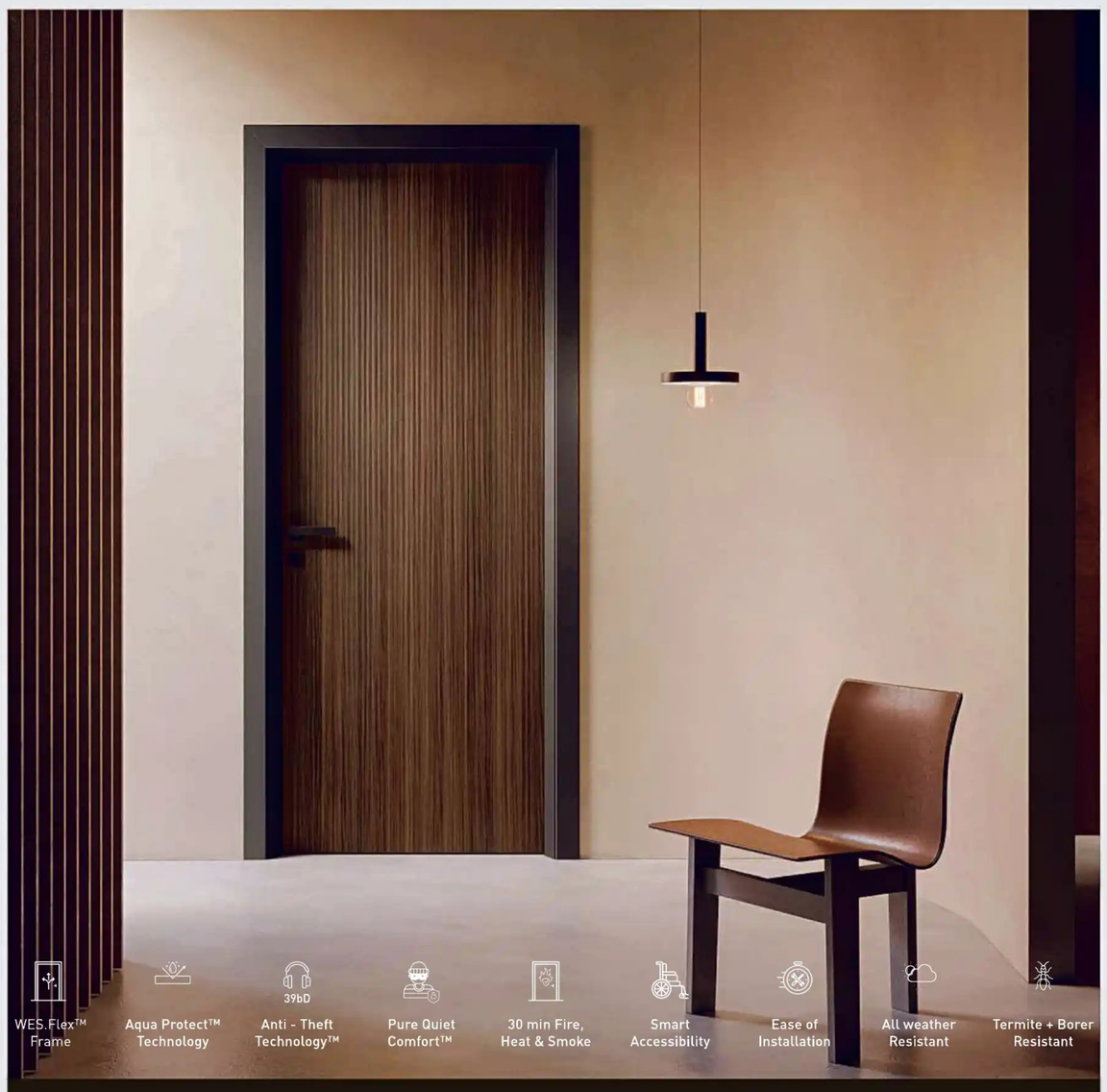

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CEBA -99.33%
ACC - 100, BS- 100
ECO-100, CS-100
KAN-99, ENG-97

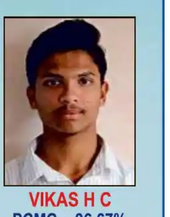
SRIRAM ARUN
PCMB - 97.83%
PHY-100, CHE-96
MATHS-99, BIO-100
KAN-98, ENG-94

JEEVITH GOWDA R
PCMB - 97.83%
PHY-97.67, CHE-100
KAN-100

POOJA V
CEBA - 97.60%
ECO-100, BS-100
CS-100

DIKSHYA S
PCMC - 96.67%
CS-100

H R SUTEJ
PCMC - 96.67%
CS-100


VIKAS H C
PCMC - 96.67%
MATH -100

PALLAVI
PCMB-96.33%
MATH- 100

IMPANA.R
CEBA - 96.17%

DEEPIKA U
PCMC - 94.83%

DIGANTH S U
PCMB - 94.83%

DHARANI M
PCMC - 94.33%

DHANUSH K S
CEBA - 93.83%

DEEKSHA C N
PCMB - 93.67%

INCHANA R S GOWDA
CEBA - 93.67%
MATH- 100

TRISHA M
PCMB-93.5%

A S SIRI
PCMB - 93.33%

SANDESH B ULLAGADDI
PCMB-93.33%

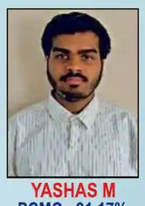
SANDHYA K A
PCMB - 93.17%

SINCHANA B
PCMB - 93.17%

AJAY SHANKAR
PCMC -92.5%

NISARGA M
PCMC - 92.33%

SINDHURA S
CEBA - 91.5%


YASHAS M
PCMC - 91.17%

KUSHAL S
CEBA - 91%

SAMBRAM S
CEBA - 90.83%

ELISHA AMIT CHOPRA
PCMC - 90.50%

DHANUSHREE B H
PCMB - 89.33%

SANGEETHA C J
PCMB - 89%

PRARTHANA G
CEBA - 89%

ROSHAN KUMAR
PCMC - 88.50%

KAVANA M
PCMB - 88.17%

T D DEVENDRA
PCMB - 87.83%

D THANISHKA
PCMC - 87.67%

BHAGYALAKSHMI M P
CEBA - 87.50%

MONIKA M K
CEBA -87.50%

AMULYA S
CEBA - 87.33%

MITHUN GOWD B S
CEBA - 86.33%

DYUTI N
PCMB - 885.67%

NEETU N
PCMB - 85.67%

D THANISHKA
PCMC - 85.50%

SATHYASHREE S
PCMB - 84.83%

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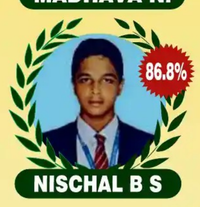
RUCHI RAJPUROHIT 87.4%

THEJUSH S. 87.2%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SANIKA PRASAD 86.6%

KISHAN GOWDA D 86.4%

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5 MINS - KADUGODI METRO
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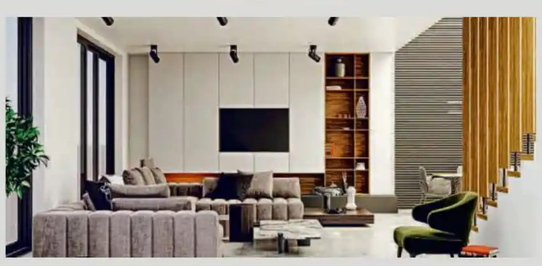

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